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Going Local? Going Organic? Ian Dobson is the answer

By Markian Jaworsky

Australian soccer has gone full circle. The witch hunt is over, or rather the hunters have become the hunted. After the relatively successful, but short coaching stint of Dutch Football Guru Guus Hiddink, Football Australia has tried to find a second Guus, but ideally someone cheaper. These candidates have been Dutchman Pim Verbeek and German Holger Osiek.

Unfortunately, neither results nor charisma made either coach popular with the Australian public, and now the taste of big name foreign coaches is somewhat bitter.

So FFA boss Frank Lowy had words with Melbourne Victory, and the rest is history. Ange Postecoglou, praised for successive A-League titles with Brisbane Roar, and less so for distant successive NSL titles with South Melbourne is the new Socceroos boss. Consensus suggests this is the best way forward for the country. The vacancy that Postecoglou has created at Melbourne Victory, can also be filled following this same philosophy.

Mysteriously neglected by the A-League since its inception 9 years ago, Ian Dobson's CV contains 9 Victorian Premier League titles

(7 with Green Gully, 2 with Altona Magic), 1 National Soccer League title (Melbourne Knights) and 1 National Soccer League Cup (Melbourne Knights). The following players have all made their direct entry into the A-League having previously played under Ian Dobson (Rodrigo Vargas, Simon Storey, Aziz Behich, Manny Muscat, Jeffrey Fleming). Ian Dobson was lured to Australia from Hull in England as a player some 30 years ago to play NSL for Preston Lions and later the Melbourne Knights. In the twilight of his playing career, Ian was playing with Croydon in the VPL, when club directors opted to move their incumbent coach on, and appoint Dobson as a player-coach, so impressed were the directors of Croydon with their star player in 1990. Dobson has been in high demand in Victoria ever since, and the time is right to promote Ian Dobson to the A-League. In fact, it is well overdue.

Whilst the argument over high profile foreign (or foreign based) coaches against local proven coaches, or some cases, local unproven coaches who once played in foreign leagues will always rage on, one can only look to Australia's biggest ever disaster, the 1998 world cup campaign to see that the biggest name does not equate to the biggest success. Soc-

cer Australia paid approximately a million dollars it could not afford on Englishman Terry Venables to guide Australia to France '98. However, Terry and Australia failed in their campaign at the final modest hurdle. An away goal loss to Iran, 3-3 on aggregate after 2 legs, was Terry's fault in more ways than one.

"The most devastating moment of my life was the match against Iran at the MCG. Under Terry Venables, Frank Farina in 2001 against Uruguay and Raul Blanco at the Olympic Games, Australia has played a flat back four. A sweeper gives options to a team going forward and especially to pick up the slack at the back. I believe a sweeper would have prevented the goals against Iran as well as preventing the first conceded by the Socceroos away to Uruguay in 2001." No doubt, Ian Dobson could offer advice to Ange Postecoglou as to how the Socceroos should play at the World Cup Finals in Brazil next year, but for now, Ian Dobson is the perfect and available coach to take on the vacant Melbourne Victory job.

Ian Dobson holds aloft the 2011 VPL trophy with Green Gully captain Jeff Fleming.

Photo: ANITA MILAS


A close-up portrait of Giorgos Mazonakis, a man with dark hair and a beard, looking directly at the camera.

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Postecoglou appointed Socceroos coach

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced that Ange Postecoglou has been appointed Head Coach of the Socceroos.

The five-year agreement runs until August 2018 and will see Postecoglou takes charge of the Socceroos at the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil, the 2015 AFC Asian Cup Australia and in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Asian qualification matches.

Postecoglou, 48, will officially start in the position next Monday 28 October and his first match as Head Coach will be against Costa Rica at Allianz Stadium, Sydney on Tuesday 19 November (7.30pm kick off)

FFA Chairman Frank Lowy said he was pleased that his long-held ambition to appoint an Australian as coach of the Socceroos had been realised.

“It was always our plan that one day an Australian would be appointed coach, and I said precisely that when we appointed the previous coach,” said Lowy.

“But I have never taken the view that the coach should be an Australian for the sake of having an Australian. I have always believed we should get the best person we can for the job.

“The fact that Ange is the best qualified, and an Australian, achieves our objective.”

FFA CEO David Gallop said today the appointment of Postecoglou was symbolic of how far the game has come in the past decade under the leadership of Frank Lowy and his Board.



New Socceroo bos Ange Postecoglou flanked by David Gallop and Frank Lowy. PHOTO: BY LOOP11

“I’m delighted that the game has reached the point where the best-qualified coach for the Socceroos happens to be someone who’s learned his football in this country and who lives and breathes the mission of Australian football,” said Gallop.

“It shows how the era of full-time professionalism in the Hyundai A-League and qualification for three consecutive FIFA World Cups is driving technical excellence.

“In Ange, the Socceroos will have a Head Coach who has exceptional experience and achievements on the domestic and international

stage. In any recruitment situation you consider the overall package that the person brings to the role.

“We wanted the best person for the job of coaching the Socceroos to highest possible standards. It’s also very significant that Ange has a deep understanding of the culture and passion of Australian football. He’s a leader in every sense.

“The FFA Board have moved quickly on the preferred candidate and with the upcoming camp and match in November it was prudent to secure Ange’s services this week.”

Ange Postecoglou said he felt hon-

oured and humbled to be chosen as Head Coach of the Socceroos.

“The Socceroos belong to the people of this nation,” said Postecoglou. “It’s my job to make sure we represent all that’s good in Australian football. We need to strive for greatness, to play with spirit and have an unwavering belief in our mission.

“I was proud to represent my country as a player and I have the same immense feeling of pride today. I thank Frank Lowy, David Gallop and the FFA for having the faith in my ability to do this job successfully.”

ANGE POSTECOGLOU FACT FILE

Nationality: Australian
Date of Birth: 27 August 1965

Club playing career:
1984-1993 South Melbourne (NSL) 193 games (19 goals)
1984 NSL Premiers (South Melbourne)
1984 NSL Champions (South Melbourne)
1985 NSL Premiers (South Melbourne)
1990/91 NSL Champions (South Melbourne)
1992/93 NSL Premiers (South Melbourne)

Representative playing career:
1986-88 Socceroos 4 games (0 goals)

Coaching career:
1996 – 2000 South Melbourne (NSL)
2000 - 2007 Australian U20 National Team
2008 Panachaiki
2009 – 2012 Brisbane Roar (Hyundai A-League)
2012 – 2013 Melbourne Victory (Hyundai A-League)

Coaching achievements:
1997/98 National Soccer League Premiers (South Melbourne)
1997/98 National Soccer League Champions (South Melbourne)
1998/99 National Soccer League Champions (South Melbourne)
1999 Oceania Club Champions (South Melbourne)
2000 Coached South Melbourne at FIFA Club World Championships
2010/11 Hyundai A-League Premiers (Brisbane Roar)
2010/11 Hyundai A-League Coach of the Year
2011 Hyundai A-League Champions (Brisbane Roar)
2012 Hyundai A-League Champions (Brisbane Roar)
2013 Voted as Head Coach of the Foxtel A-League All Stars v Man Utd

David Gallop has thanked the Melbourne Victory for agreeing to release Postecoglou from his contract with the Hyundai A-League club. “The nation came calling for Ange and that left the Melbourne Victory

Chairman Anthony Di Pietro and his Board of Directors with a decision to make,” said Gallop. “Victory has done the right thing by Australian football and the club is to be commended.”

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Perth Glory can confirm that former Chelsea and Arsenal captain William Gallas has agreed provisional terms to join the club this season as their international marquee player on a one-year deal.

The former French international, who appeared in two World Cups, two European Championships and won back-to-back English Premier League titles with Chelsea, will become the first Frenchman ever to play in the Hyundai A-League.

Gallas’ Australian based agent said William had a number of offers from clubs in The Gulf, Far East and the MLS but choose to don the Purple and White colours of Perth Glory FC.

“This is a credit to the A-league on how far it’s come since its inaugural season and the profile of a club such as Perth Glory and the people behind the scenes that make this a great club.”

“I would like to thank the club on the professionalism it has shown throughout discussions with myself and my representatives and the people who made it happen in Australia,” he added.

Gallas was equally as optimistic about the new relationship.

After speaking to Alistair Edwards and Jason Brewer, the passion and ambition in the voices of both gentlemen enticed me to this new challenge in Australia. I look forward

GALLAS GOAL FOR GLORY



to wearing with pride the Jersey of Perth Glory for this season.”

“I hope to help my new team mates and club achieve success in this season and hope to help deliver to the fans of Perth the championship they are looking for. I look forward to this new challenge and hope to excite the fans,” Gallas said via his agent.

Head Coach Alistair Edwards was delighted to welcome a player of Gallas’ ilk in to the Perth Glory fold.

“What better player in world foot-

ball to bring to Western Australia than someone with 84 caps for one of the best footballing nations in the world?” he said.

“He has played alongside some of the best players in world football and worked under some of the most decorated managers and coaches of all time, including Arsene Wenger and Jose Mourinho, people whom I have the utmost respect for.

“I have spoken to William about the proud history of our club and that we have the league’s best and most passionate fans.

“Equally importantly, we have discussed our vision and philosophy and the values that are driving the club forward.

“Gallas fits into our vision of providing the best environment for our youth to flourish. “He knows that he is coming into a wonderful culture built around great experienced players and some of the most talented young players in Australian football.

“On a personal level I am looking forward to sitting down with William over the next eight months to

extract every piece of knowledge about his experiences with the French National Football Academy at Clairfontaine and the French National team, his time at Marseilles, Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham and whatever he can share about working with the greatest managers in world football over the past decade,” Edwards said.

Head of the A-League, Damien de Bohun, congratulated Perth Glory on bringing someone of Gallas’ stature and experience to the competition.

“William Gallas is a fantastic addition to the Hyundai A-League and I would like to congratulate Perth Glory for continuing our recent record of bringing world class marquee players to the competition,” said de Bohun.

“He has played at the highest level at World Cups and the English Premier League and I’m sure football fans all over the country will look forward to watching him in action.”

GALLAS FACT FILE

Club Career	
1995–1997	Caen 34 (0)
1997–2001	Marseille 84 (2)
2001–2006	Chelsea 159 (13)
2006–2010	Arsenal 101 (12)
2010–2013	Tottenham 61 (1)
International Career	
2002–2010	France 84 (5)

Appearance (Goals)

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SCOREBOARD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
2 Adelaide United	2	1	1	0	5	3	2	4
3 Sydney FC	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2	3
4 Central Coast Mariners	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
5 Melbourne Heart	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
6 Melbourne Victory	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
7 Western Sydney Wanderers	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
8 Wellington Phoenix	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
9 Perth Glory	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
10 Newcastle Jets	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1

THIS WEEK	Round 3	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri Oct 25	Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar	Etihad Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sat Oct 26	Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
	Sat Oct 26	Sydney FC v West Sydney Wanderers	Allianz Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sun Oct 27	Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets	McLean Park, Napier	5:00 PM	3:00 PM
	Sun Oct 27	Perth Glory v Melbourne Heart	NIB stadium	2:00 PM	5:00 PM

NEXT WEEK	Round 4	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri Nov 1	West Sydney Wanderers v Adelaide United	Parramatta Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sat Nov 2	Perth Glory v Sydney FC	NIB stadium	2:30 PM	5:30 PM
	Sat Nov 2	Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners	Hunter Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sun Nov 3	Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart	Suncorp Stadium	4:00 PM	5:00 PM
	Mon Nov 4	Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix	Etihad Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM

ROUND TWO

Adelaide United 2 (Cirio 22, Jeronimo 25)
Melbourne Victory 2 (Finkler 79, Troisi 90)
@ Coopers Stadium, 18/10/2013
Crowd: 16,504

Melbourne Heart 2 (Williams 52', 60')
Central Coast Mariners 2 (Flores (Pen) 71', (Pen) 77')
Aami Park, Melbourne
Attendance: 8,734

Brisbane Roar 4 (Smith 37, Henrique 38, North 44, Broich 80)
Sydney FC 0
Crowd: 21,841 @Suncorp Stadium

Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Polenz 15)
Wellington Phoenix 1 (Brockie 60)
Crowd: 16,294 @ Pirtek Stadium

Newcastle Jets 0
Perth Glory 0
At Hunter Stadium
Crowd: 12,383

A double effort on the weekend from Heart's David Williams puts him up amongst the early goal-getters.

TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 03Jeronimo Naumann (Adelaide Utd)
- 02David Williams (Heart)
Marcos Flores (Mariners)
- 01Alessandro Del Piero (SFC)
Mitchell Duke (Mariners)
Tomi Juric (Wanderers)
Stein Huysegems (Phoenix)
Besart Berisha (Roar)
Ivan Franjic (Roar)
Fabio Ferriera (Adelaide Utd)
Ryo Nagai (Glory)



A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 2

Follow Steven Talevski on twitter @steventalevski.

Compiled by Steven Talevski



Round two of the Hyundai A-League may have had four draws but there was plenty of drama. Both Melbourne clubs arguably deserved three points after questionable referee calls, Brisbane thumped Sydney FC, Ljubo Milicevic made an appearance in Newcastle and the Phoenix impressed against the Wanderers. There were also a number of star performances this week, so here is our Team of the Week:

GK: Ante Covic - The Wanderers gloveman was at his best against an inspired Phoenix side, as he helped his team to hold onto a point late in the game when he saved a cracking Carlos Hernandez strike.

RB: Jerome Polenz - Polenz found himself on the scoresheet this week after his shot sneaked through a packed penalty area and into the back of the net. Polenz worked hard down the right wing, stopping a number of Phoenix attacks and turning them into Wanderers attacking moves.

CB: Matt Smith - Brisbane's captain led exceptionally well from the back this week helping the Roar keep a clean sheet while also popping up in the attacking third and scoring a header from a Thomas Broich free kick.

CB: Jade North - The 41 time capped Socceroo did his job along-

side Matt Smith with relatively ease against a lacklustre Sydney FC. North also scored his first A-League goal since 2008.

LB: Adama Traore - Traore once against stood out on Friday night as the full back was a menace down the left flank by thwarting Adelaide's attacks while also not being afraid to take on players.

RM: Mitch Nichols - One of two Melbourne Victory players in the team this week, Nichols created Victory's equaliser with a wonderful cut back to James Troisi. Nichols worked hard in midfield for Melbourne and always looked to move the ball positively forward.

CM: Matt McKay - Returning from the two Socceroos friendlies in Europe, McKay did not seem to be affected by jet-lag as he controlled the Roar midfield. McKay also played a sweetly passed ball into the path of Jade North for Brisbane's third goal.

LM: Thomas Broich - Broich had a sublime game for the Roar, something of which A-League fans have come to expect from the German. Broich was involved in three goals for Brisbane including scoring the Roar's fourth of the night.

RAM: Marco Flores - One of two players that stood out in a number 10 role in the game, Flores made the Mariners attack ticker and seemed to be their only threat against a solid Heart defence. Flores ended up netting two penalties that helped the Central Coast pick



up a point away from home.

LAM: David Williams - Moving in behind the Golgol Mebrahtu this week, Williams gave the Mariners defence headaches by finding the net twice and created chances for his fellow Heart team-mates including Iain Ramsey's strike that hit the side netting. Williams would have had a hat-trick if it was not for Justin Pasfield's superb save.

ST: Jeremy Brockie- Returning from playing 90 minutes against Trinidad and Tobago, Brockie was in fine form and scored the Phoenix equaliser against Western Sydney after being played through by Paul Ifill.

Coach: Mike Mulvey - After having his first pre-season with the Roar as head coach, Mulvey put out a team that dominated Sydney FC. Brisbane had a flawless game from defence to attack with all eleven players doing their jobs. Mulvey seems to have brought Brisbane back to their best before entering a massive away clash to Melbourne Victory.

Star Man: Thomas Broich - Our star man this week comes once again from the Coach of the week's club. Thomas Broich was a standout against the Sky Blues as he created Matt Smith's header from a free kick and slotted in Ivan Franjic's cross.

Adelaide United

2

Melbourne Victory

2

Match Details

Adelaide United 2 (Cirio 22, Jeronimo 25)
Melbourne Victory 2 (Finkler 79, Troisi 90)
@ Coopers Stadium, 18/10/2013
Crowd: 16,504

Adelaide United: 1. Eugene Galekovic, 21. Tarek Elrich, 4. John McKain, 16. Daniel Bowles (17. Awer Mabil), 5. Osama Malik, 14. Cameron Watson (23. Jordan Elsey), 9. Sergio Cirio, 13. Steven Lustica, 22. Fabio Ferreira (19. Jake Barker-Daish), 18. Michael Zullo, 7. Jeronimo Neumann.

Melbourne Victory: 1. Nathan Coe, 23. Adrian Leijer, 4. Nick Ansell (7. Guilherme Finkler), 25. Jason Geria, 3. Adama Traore, 10. Archie Thompson, 6. Leigh Broxham, 14. James Troisi, 11. Connor Pain (9. Kosta Barbarouses), 5. Mark Milligan, 15. Mitch Nichols.

Match Stats

18	Tackles	19
10	Total Shots	17
376	Total Passes	380
49.3%	Possession	50.7%
8	Corners	4
1	Offsides	11
6	Fouls committed	11

Man of the Match
Mark Milligan (Victory)

Victory gate-crashes Reds' party

By Matt Mays

In what proved to be Ange Postecoglou's penultimate game in charge, his Victory side fought hard back from a two goal deficit to steal a point in the interstate derby.

Cirio slotted home a debatable penalty before Jeronimo tapped home into an empty net. But that wasn't enough as a late brace from Finkler and an injury time strike from Troisi shared the spoils.

It was supposed to be Adelaide's night. The Reds were celebrating ten years as a professional club and wore a commemorative strip of red and gold, just like they did in 2004 against the Brisbane Strikers. Coopers stadium was packed and full of colour, atmosphere and excitement. All the ingredients needed for a top interstate derby.

Adelaide rushed out the blocks positively, just as how they finished against Perth Glory in round one; fast pace passing, high pressing and full of confidence. However the Reds did suffer a setback early on as Bowles limped off early for the youngster and crowd favourite Mabil.

As bright as Adelaide started, it was Victory who should have struck first but Conor Pain lashed high and wide. It proved to be a costly miss.

The Reds broke at the other end and Neumann found himself through on goal. Coe pounced and appeared to get a mighty touch on the ball but the referee thought otherwise and pointed to the spot. Up stepped Cirio to slot home his first for the club and started the birthday celebrations in style.

Then it got even better. Mabil, who was embracing his early introduction and running the show, controlled nicely on the edge of the box, only to see his turned shot come off the upright. Coopers fell silent for a split second and watched the ball roll ever so kindly into Jeronimo's path to tap home for 2-0 in just under twenty five on the clock for his third in two games.

Just like last year, the Reds early



James Troisi's effort leaves Eugene Galekovic stranded and pulls Melbourne Victory back into the game after trailing 2-0.

dominance paid off. Everything seemed to be falling for them too.

After some delightful build up play down the right, Archie Thompson had acres of space and time to run at the defence, but instead of slotting past Galekovic like the selfish striker he is, he chose to square the ball to Nicholls to tap into an empty net. A great goal it seemed, but the linesman had his flag up for offside – wrongly. Nicholls was at least 2 metres on.

Victory finished the half brightly but the Reds took a two goal deficit with them into the change rooms. What came back out, was a different mentality.

Adelaide became slow, lethargic and out of ideas. Their passing

game disappeared and turned into a long ball slogging match. Victory saw a chance, and goodness did they take it, but they left it late.

After Troisi's header going inches wide, Postecoglou rolled his sleeves and brought on Finkler. The substitute did not let him down. With just over twelve minutes to go, the substitute brought the ball down neatly from a corner, unmarked slotted the ball past Galekovic. Game on.

From then on it was a nail biter.

Melbourne threw everything but the kitchen sink at Adelaide. It was one-way traffic.

Galekovic produced three magnificent saves in quick succession and it looked as though the Reds would hold on, but it wasn't to be. In the fourth of six added on minutes, Victory broke quickly down the left. Thompson shaped up to shoot but cleverly pulled the ball back for Troisi to strike high and mighty in off the underside of the crossbar.

The comeback complete and was thoroughly deserved. The full time whistle left Adelaide flat on their backs exhausted. Injuries and suspensions may have played a part but Melbourne Victory produced a magnificent second half and could even have snatched all three points.

Happy birthday Adelaide. Love from Ange Postecoglou.



On-fire Adelaide United forward Jeronimo Neumann was on hand to double the lead for the home side.



Archie Thompson turns on the turbo boost and leaves Awer Mabil in his wake.

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Melbourne heart



2

Central Coast



2

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 2
(Williams 52', 60')
Central Coast Mariners 2
(Flores (Pen) 71', (Pen) 77')
AAMI Park, Melbourne
Attendance: 8,734
Referee: Ben Williams

Melbourne Heart: 1. Andrew Redmayne (Gk), 3. Rob Wieleaert (C), 7. Iain Ramsay, 8. Massimo Muroccca, 14. Golgol Mebrahtu, 15. David Williams, 16. Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman, 23. Mate Dugandzic, 24. Patrick Kisorbo, 25. Andrea Miglierini (6. Patrick Gerhardt 75')

Substitutes Not Used: 19. Ben Garuccio, 20. Tando Velaphi (Gk), 21. Stefan Mauk, 22. Nick Kalmar
Yellow Cards: Kisorbo
Red Cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Marcel Seip, 7. John Hutchinson (C), 8. Nick Montgomery, 9. Mitchell Duke, 10. Marcos Flores, 11. Nick Fitzgerald (14. Michael McGlinchey 61'), 15. Storm Roux, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 21. Mile Sterjovski (19. Matt Simon 61')

Substitutes Not Used: 5. Zachary Anderson, 12. Liam Reddy (Gk), 17. Anthony Caceres
Yellow Cards: Simon
Red Cards: Nil

Champs deny Heart maximum points

By Adrian Houghton

Melbourne Heart were the victims of a dubious penalty decision that saw them surrender a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 against Central Coast Mariners.

After an uninspiring first half the game sprung to life in the second, with four goals scored in a frantic 22-minute period.

The first came on 54 minutes when David Williams rounded the Mariners' goalkeeper Justin Pasfield, who fumbled after a long-range strike from Golgol Mebrahtu.

Six minutes later and the Heart had doubled their advantage, after a clever ball from Mebrahtu released an onrushing Iain Ramsay who squared for Williams to tap home for his second goal of the match.

With the Heart seemingly content and comfortably hanging on two their two-goal cushion, the game's major flash point ensued when Red and White centre-back Patrick Kisorbo was adjudged to have fouled Matt Symon inside the area. Television replays confirmed that it was a soft call from referee Ben Williams.

Marcos Flores was on hand to dispatch the penalty and breathe life into the contest.

And moments later the Mariners found themselves on level terms when a second penalty was awarded to the visitors following substitute Patrick Gerhardt's careless handball.

Flores stepped up again to fire home the equaliser, sending goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne the wrong way.

Both teams rarely threatened in the closing stages of the match, with Massimo Muroccca coming closest with a rasping drive that rose over Pafield's crossbar.

The game began in subdued fashion with both teams finding it difficult to possess the ball in midfield.

Once the game settled it was the Heart who created the game's first major chance, with Williams pow-



David Williams (centre) celebrates scoring a brace with Heart teammates..

erful goal-bound shot blocked by Trent Sainsbury.

Mebrahtu's movement was a real handful for the Mariners' defenders in the early stages of the match, setting the tone for his most complete A-League performance.

The duel between ex-Socceroo Patrick Kisorbo and a potential national hero Mitchell Duke was a fascinating subplot that the former Leeds United man shaded.

However, Duke did have some half-chances to open the scoring

but lacked composure in front of goal.

The 22-year-old hit a rasping drive straight at Redmayne who fumbled the ball out for a corner that resulted in a Sainsbury header which crashed the woodwork.

Heart ended the opening period in the ascendancy with Ramsay heading over when unmarked after an inch-perfect cross from Williams, and Mebrahtu shot wide after fine work down the right flank from Mate Dugandzic.

Second half chaos ensued and Mebrahtu had a golden opportunity to put the game beyond the Mariners' reach but after being played through 1 v 1, only to see his shot brilliantly thwarted by Pasfield.

The Red and White will feel aggrieved by the first contentious penalty call and not to hold out for a memorable victory.

While the Mariners' boss Graham Arnold declared his side showed a "lack of desire" and they were fortunate to salvage a point.

M	Match Stats	
27	Tackles	10
7	Total Shots	14
301	Total Passes	579
34.9%	Possession	65.1%
2	Corners	11
4	Offsides	0
15	Fouls committed	14
Man of the Match		
Golgol Mebrahtu (Heart)		



Marcos Flores steps up to take his spot-kick amidst Heart protests.



Heart keeper Adrew Redmayne comes out to collect against Matt Simon.

Brisbane Roar



4

Sydney FC



0

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 4 (Matt Smith 37', Henrique 38', Jade North 44', Thomas Broich 80')
Sydney FC 0
Saturday, 19 October 2013
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Kick-Off: 6.45pm Local (7:45pm Aedt)
Referee: Peter Green
Crowd: 21,841

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matthew Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha (10. Henrique 26'), 11. Liam Miller, 13. Jade North, 17. Matt McKay (23. Dimitri Petratos 80'), 18. Luke Brattan (26. Corey Brown 76'), 19. Jack Hingert, 22. Thomas Broich
SubstiTutes Not Used: 15. James Donachie, 20. Matthew Acton, Yellow Cards: Jack Hingert 18' Red Cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 2. Seb Ryall, 3. Mark Warren, 6. Nikola Petkovic, 8. Predrag Bojic (14. Mitchell Mallia 71'), 10. Alessandro Del Piero (C) (7. Brett Emerton 32'), 11. Richard Garcia, 16. Joel Chianese, 19. Nicky Carle, 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk), 22. Ali Abbas, 28. Matt Thompson (23. Rhyan Grant 46')
Substitutes Not Used: 1. Ivan Necevski (Gk), 5. Matt Jurman
Yellow Cards: Marc Warren 15', Ali Abbas 36'
Red CardS: Nil

Rampant Roar spank Sydney FC

By Jarrod Ellis

Despite a promising first half-hour Sydney's night out in Brisbane took a turn for the worse when Alessandro Del Piero was forced from the pitch due to injury. What followed was utter capitulation from the visitors, a three goal flurry before halftime from the Roar and a dominant second half performance that will have Sydney supporters questioning their team's desire. There was a quartet of goal scorers from the home team in the 4-0 win, Matt Smith, Henrique, Jade North and Thomas Broich made their mark on the scoresheet as Brisbane more than compensated for the loss of Besart Berisha to a hamstring strain in the 26th minute. With both Del Piero and Berisha absent for the majority the match did lose some star power, but Brisbane fans were able to welcome home Matt McKay. The Soccerroo making his first appearance for the club since the memorable 2011 A-League Grand Final win. Roar manage Mike Mulvey had expressed concern that McKay's involvement in Australia's matches midweek would effect his ability to play ninety minutes and early on in the match it looked as though Sydney were determined to drag out proceedings.

An organised and watchful defence marked the visitors opening half hour, sitting deep and looking to attack Brisbane on the counter as they repeatedly frustrated their opponents attempts to forge goal scoring opportunities. However that all changed in a seven minute period that demonstrated that Sydney's defence fragilities of recent seasons remain. Brisbane's first goal arrived in the 37th minute courtesy of Matt Smith. The defender got onto the end of a Thomas Broich free-kick, rising above Sebastien Ryall before planting a header well within the reach of Vedran Janjetovic. The keeper was unable to get a strong enough hand to the shot though and Brisbane's captain wheeled away in delight. Only a minute later the Roar would make it two. Once again Sydney



Matthew Smith heads home the opening goal to set up the start of the 4-0 drubbing.

failed to deal with a high ball into the box. Receiving the ball from a short corner McKay lofted a ball to the far post attempting to find Ivan Franjic. Brett Emerton, introduced for the injured Del Piero, got his head to the ball but only helped it on to Franjic who in turn headed it to an unmarked Henrique on the opposite post, the fellow substitute ushering the ball into the net with his thigh. Brisbane's third would arrive only six minutes later and from a surprising source. Jade North, lingering forward after a Brisbane set-piece found himself on the end of a through ball from McKay that left him free in Sydney penalty area. With Berisha watching on the veteran defender drew Janjetovic forward before playing an angled shot across him that nestled in the far corner of the net.

Sydney had a chance to pull one back early in the second half, Joel Chianese spurning an open and screaming Richard Garcia on the edge of the Brisbane box, instead choosing to shoot but only managing to ripple the outside net of Michael Theoklitos' goal. With Berisha sidelined and no out-and-out striker on the bench Brisbane were playing Brazilian winger Henrique upfront. He should have added a fourth in the 54th minute but strayed offside with Ivan Franjic attempting to play him in for a shot into an open net with a two-on-one against Janjetovic. Henrique had another golden chance only two minutes later, a knock down from Matt Smith left the ball bouncing in the six yard box but Janjetovic got his hand to the ball first by a matter of inches. Henrique was causing plenty of

problems for Sydney, having a penalty call in denied in the 65th minute and then with a chance to the right of the penalty spot in the 70th minute shot straight into the arms of Janjetovic. Mitch Mallia was introduced for Pedj Bojic in the 71st minute and almost made the score look more respectable for Sydney, exposing the Brisbane defence's lack of pace, but his shot was too close Theoklitos. It was a long time coming but Brisbane's fourth arrived in the 80th minute, a driving run from Franjic down the right to the bye-line resulted in a cutback for Thomas Broich to thump into the net. Frank Farina was understandably disappointed with the result but urged his side to look ahead to next week's Sydney derby. "We were frustrating them I think,"

Farina said. "And then the two set pieces, and after that there was only one team. "I was disappointed with our performance, especially after last week, but as I said to the players, we've got the derby next week so we've got to get ready for that."

	Match Stats	
15	Tackles	14
17	Total Shots	8
624	Total Passes	381
61.7%	Possession	38.3%
8	Corners	3
4	Offsides	2
18	Fouls committed	15

Man of the Match
Ivan Franjic (Brisbane)



Lion Kings: No wonder the Brisbane Roar are in a playful mood after tearing their visitors apart in comprehensive fashion. In this instance, Jade North scores his first goal in Roar colours.

Newcastle Jets



0

Perth Glory



0

Match Details

**Newcastle Jets 0
Perth Glory 0**
At Hunter Stadium
Referee: Shaun Evans
Assistants: Nathan Macdonald,
Ryan Gallagher
4th Official: Ryan Gehrig
Crowd: 12,383

Newcastle Jets: 1.Mark Birighitti (Gk), 2.Scott Neville, 4. Kew Jaliens (16.Jacob Pepper 58'), 6. Zenon Caravella, 8. Ruben Zadkovich (C), 10. Nathan Burns, 11.Craig Goodwin (18. James Brown 54'), 12. Connor Chapman, 19. Michael Bridges (17. James Virgili 75'), 21. Samuel Gallaway, 22. Adam Taggart

Substitutes Not Used: 15. Josh Bril-lante, 20. Ben KennedY (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic (Gk), 3. Brandon O'Neill, 4. Ryan Ed-wards, 5. Steve Pantelidis, 7. Jacob Burns (C), 10. Jamie MacLaren, 11. Adrian Zahra (17. Chris Harold 58'), 14.Steven McGarry (6. Cameron Edwards 58'), 16.Sidnei Sciola Moraes, 19. Josh Risdon (2. Jack Clisby 11'), 21. Scott Jamieson.

Substitutes Not Used: 18. Jack Duncan (Gk), 20.Daniel De Silva
Yellow Cards: Burns 34', Pantelidis 64'
Red Cards: Nil

Man of the Match
Ruben Zadkovich (Jets)

Spoils shared in dour football affair

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets and the Perth Glory have played out an un-eventful 0-0 draw at Hunter stadium in front of 12,363 fans.

The fans did their bit to inspire the players on display but few chances were created by either side in a re-sult that will only increase the pres-sure on the two sides.

They will both remain at the foot of the ladder and on this display deservedly so.

Perth will be far more satisfied with the point and the scrutiny will only increase for under fire Jets coach Gary Van Egmond.

Newcastle started the game the more positive of the sides as they continually pinned the Glory back in their defensive third, courtesy of a strong breeze behind their backs. Set pieces were the only way the Jets could find a path to goal and they were unlucky on a couple of occasions not to open the scoring. In the 6th minute, a Ruben Zadkovich free kick almost led to the opening goal of the game. He whipped in a ball from the right that was met by Dutch Import Kew Jaliens. His header looked certain to be tapped in by Adam Taggart, but the former Perth player just couldn't stretch out his foot far enough to get the decisive touch.

Another teasing set piece delivery from Zadkovich almost led to a goal by another former Glory man, Jets right-back Scott Neville. He brilliantly leapt above the Glory defence and his header from 10 yards flashed past the left post of Danny Vukovic by the smallest of margins.

Craig Goodwin will be disap-pointed that he didn't put the home side in front at the stroke of half-time. Sam Gallaway galloped forward down the left edge and hit the penalty spot with a precise cross. Goodwin fluffed his lines on his usually reliable left foot and the Glory escaped to the sheds with the scores still deadlocked.

Newcastle appeared to come out the more desperate after the inter-val and it was man of the match Nathan Burns who continued to look dan-gerous down the right side.

He combined with Nathan Burns on 66 minutes and was unlucky not to score. Burns slalomed his way past 3 Glory defenders before the ball spilled to Neville on the edge of the box. He lashed a drive that looked to be going in the top cor-



Jacob Burns piles on the pressure but can't find a way through the Jets' defence.

ner, only for Vukovic to somehow parry it away to safety.

After this, the home side seemed to run out of ideas and the visitors were the ones who started to look the more threatening side on the counter.

In fact, the Glory seemed certain to score in the 71st minute. New-castle turned over possession in the midfield and immediately the ball was sprayed out to the pacy Jamie MacLaren. He drove at the Jets de-fence before squaring a sumptuous pass across the box in the direction of Brazilian winger Sidnei. Every-one in the stadium was preparing for the worst, but from nowhere, that man Neville again slid through and cleared the ball away from danger.

Sidnei was not concerned and continued to threaten, testing the reflexes of Jets custodian mark Birighitti. The Brazilian cut in from the left and unleashed a drive from 25 yards that was well par-ried away for a corner by the Jets keeper.

The most contentious moment of the match happened on 87 minutes.

Jets wide man Burns again skipped past some suspect Glory defending before being felled in the box by what looked like a mistimed chal-lenge from Glory youngster Jack Clisby, who had come on in the first half to replace the injured Josh Risdon. Referee Shaun Evans waved away the Jets claims of a penalty and both sides settled for their first point each of the new season.

UNITED	Match Stats	GLORY
20	Tackles	15
12	Total Shots	12
280	Total Passes	388
42.3%	Possession	57.7%
5	Corners	5
2	Offsides	2
22	Fouls committed	7

Brandon O'Neill and Adam Taggart go shoulder-to-shoulder and refuse to give an inch.



Michael Bridges sends a cross in as Jacob Burns attempts to block the effort.



Ruben Zadkovich tries to skip past the attention of Brazilian playmaker Moraes

Western Sydney



1

Wellington Phoenix



1

Match Details

Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Polenz 15)
Wellington Phoenix 1 (Brockie 60)
Crowd: 16,294 @ Pirtek Stadium

Wanderers: 1. Ante Covic, 3. Adam D'Apuzzo, 6. Jerome Polenz, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 10. Aaron Mooy (7. Labinot Haliti), 21. Shinji Ono (18. Iacopo la Rocca), 19. Mark Bridge, 8. Mateo Poljak, 17. Youssouf Hersi (11. Brendon Santalab), 9. Tomi Juric

Yellow cards: Polenz

Phoenix: 1. Glen Moss, 7. Leo Bertos, 22. Andrew Durante, 3. Reece Cairns, 18. Ben Sigmund, 17. Vince Lia, 21. Carlos Hernandez, 9. Kenny Cunningham, 11. Jeremy Brockie, 2. Manny Muscat, 10. Stein Huysegems.

Yellow cards: Muscat, Bertos

Phoenix match might of Wanderers

By Saman Zaiei

It was a result not many had expected, but one that Wellington Phoenix fans might be content with. As all odds were against a win for the Phoenix away from home, it was still unlikely for the end result to have been a score draw after the improvements Western Sydney fans were expecting to see from their draw against the Mariners a week earlier.

In an incredible atmosphere of around 16,000 Western Sydney fans (in a stadium of max capacity 21,487), the Wanderers came out to a crowd cheering them on for their first win of the season. In the first minute Parramatta stadium thought they were about to see the opening goal, but Mark Bridge was not able to connect properly to Yousef Hersi's brilliant cross.

From then it got worse with young Socceroos star Aaron Mooy taken off after a hefty blow to the head that left him knocked out only 5 minutes into the game. As anyone who has watched this rising star play will testify who important he is to the Wanderers midfield, he was a big loss for the rest of the game.

It was then an unexpected goal from full back, young German Jermoe Polenz with a stunning volley just outside the box from a poorly cleared corner that sent the stadium into an uproar in the 15th minute. So big of a goal that on his facebook page he mentioned "Thank you for your great support today! My first A-League goal is dedicated to all of you."

Minutes later a second goal almost came from a cross that was missed by inches, but in the second half it was the Phoenix who came away with stronger chances. In the 59th minute Ante Covic was forced to make two



Jeremy Brockie snatches a well deserved equaliser for the visiting Kiwis.

consecutive saves that proved crucial in the end, however no matter how strong the keeper of the last season was, only minutes later in the 60th minute Jeremy Brockie pulled off a piece of brilliance to level the score.

In the 63rd minute, the Wanderers looking somewhat relaxed were almost punished by a second goal were it not for another incredible save at full stretch from Covic who denied a strike from outside the box headed for

the top left hand corner of the goal.

Substitute and new signing Brendan Santalab, took a brilliant shot in the 74th minute only to be just denied by right post, which could have seen his team take all three points. Phoenix holding most of the possession away from home and holding the Wanderers to a draw means more creative thinking from head coach Tony Popovic who revealed that he was contacted

by the FFA about the Socceroos coaching position vacant.

The game left a negative impact on some Wanderers fans, however, many agreed that Ante Covic was the stand out man of the game with incredible saves that really could have cost them the game at home.

So after two games with a total of 28 shots and only two goals, how will the Wanderers fair in the derby next week against Sydney FC?

Match Stats		
25	Tackles	29
13	Total Shots	15
362	Total Passes	470
48.2%	Possession	55.2%
9	Corners	6
2	Offsides	0
25	Fouls committed	17
Man of the Match		
Michael Beauchamp (WSW)		



Jeremy Brockie (out of picture) sneaks one past Ante Covic at the near post.



It's the long and the short of it as Iacopo La Rocca closes down Jason Hicks (Phoenix).

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AUSTRALIA'S 2013 NUMBER ONE NIKE TEAM WEAR SUPPLIER





Victory Line Up

1.Nathan COE (GK)
3.Adama TRAORE
4.Nick ANSELL
5.Mark MILLIGAN ©
6.Leigh BROXHAM
7.Gui FINKLER
9.Kosta BARBAROUSES
10.Archie THOMPSON
11.Connor PAIN
13.Andrew NABBOUT
14.James TROISI
15.Mitch NICHOLS
16.Rashid MAHAZI
17.Jimmy JEGGO
20.Lawrence THOMAS (GK)
23.Adrian LEIJER
24, Scott GALLOWAY.25, Jason GERIA
Two to be omitted

Ins: 13.Andrew NABBOUT (promoted), 17.James JEGGO (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 2.Pablo CONTRERAS (suspended – 1 game)

Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar

Fri Oct 25 Etihad Stadium 7:30 PM

Last hurrah for Ange

Andrew Bishara

Could this be Ange Postecoglou's last game in charge of the Victory? If it is, it will be a fitting way to depart: his new project versus the team that made his name.

If it is his last game, the Victory faithful and players will no doubt go out guns blazing to send the man off in style. Although for everyone involved this could be a sad time.

Postecoglou has done an amazing job with Victory. They are by no means the finished product, but the groundwork has been laid there for all to see.

Last weekend's game against Adelaide highlighted just how influential Postecoglou is on the sidelines. A sparking half-time team talk and some clever substitutions paved the way for the Victory to make a stirring comeback, snatching a 2-2 draw against the Reds.

It has to be said, that the Victory deserved the three points after missing a host of chances. But Postecoglou believed that if it weren't for some terrible officiating decisions the Victory would have claimed maximum points.

"Do you think it was a fair result? No, I didn't think it was a fair result," Postecoglou said.

"I thought we probably could have won three games.



"If it wasn't for the referee's intervention in the first half, it would have been quite convincing (win)."

The 48-year-old will definitely have warned his side not to keep blowing their chances, especially against a team deadly in front of goal, such as league-leaders the Brisbane Roar.

The Roar put on an impressive performance against Sydney, demolishing them 4-0, with three goals scored in a magnificent 8-minute spell.

Mike Mulvey's men have started the season with two very different performances. Roar's 2-1 win over Wellington in week one, showed it's fighting spirit to snatch a win.

While against Sydney, the Roar exhibited its ability to take its chances when it mattered. All this, while key striker Besart Berisha limped off in the 25th minute with a hamstring injury.

Mulvey has already stated that Berisha would be an unlikely starter against the Victory.

"He was very disappointed to come off," Mulvey said

"He had a fantastic pre-season. He's probably in the best shape of his life and I think that's going to play a big part in his recovery, which we expect to be no more than one week."

However Mulvey was impressed with the return of former Roar captain, Matt McKay, who returned

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Victory 2.70 Draw 3.42 Roar 2.80	Played 24 Victory 10 Roar 8 Draw 6
Referee: Ben Williams	

Radio Broadcast: 612 ABC Brisbane, ABC Local Radio Queensland, 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local radio Victoria, ABC Local Radio Tasmania, Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MVCvBRI

**Kiss of Death
Victory 2-1 Roar**

from Socceroos duty midweek.

"We all wanted Matty to play," he said.

"He was keen to play and that shows the spirit amongst the players. The attitude of the players is absolutely fantastic"

McKay will definitely feature against the Victory this Friday night, with the Roar looking to continue it's fine start. This game though will be wide open with both teams playing an attacking style game.

But with the Victory possibly saying goodbye to Ange, and the fact they are on verge of finally taking its chances, the money's on them to get the points.



Roar Line Up

1.Michael THEO (gk)
2.Matthew SMITH (c)
3.Shane STEFANUTTO
5.Ivan FRANJIC
10.HENRIQUE
11.Liam MILLER
13.Jade NORTH
14.Diogo FERREIRA
15.James DONACHIE
17.Matt McKay
18.Luke BRATTAN
19.Jack HINGERT
29.Matthew ACTON (gk)
22.Thomas BROICH
23.Dimitri PETRATOS
26.Corey BROWN
29.Kwame YEBOAH
One to be omitted

Ins: 29.Kwame YEBOAH (promoted), 14.Diogo FERREIRA (promoted)

Out: Besart BERISHA (hamstring – two weeks),

Unavailable: George LAMBA-DARDIS (knee - season)



Mariners Line Up

1.Justin PASFIELD (GK)
3.Joshua ROSE
4.Marcel SEIP
5.Zachary ANDERSON
6.Brent GRIFFITHS
7.John HUTCHINSON (C)
8.Nick MONTGOMERY
9.Mitchell DUKE
10.Marcos FLORES
11.Nick FITZGERALD
12.Liam REDDY (GK)
13.Hayden MORTON
14.Michael McGlinchey
15.Storm ROUX
16.Trent SAINSBURY
17.Anthony CACERES
19.Matt SIMON
21.Mile STERJOVSKI
Two to be omitted

Ins: 6.Brent GRIFFITHS (promoted), 18.Michael NEILL (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 2.Daniel MCBREEN (On loan at Shanghai SIPG until October 31), 23.Adam KWASNIK (Groin – 1 week)

Mariners v Adelaide United

Sat Oct 26 Bluetongue Stdm 5:30 PM

Distraction? What Distraction?

Adrian Deans

At the time of writing, the new Socceroos coach is yet to be announced. In all likelihood the new man will have been unveiled by the time of reading.

I certainly hope so, for the Mariners' sake, because they played as though distracted on the weekend, and it'll only get worse if Arnie is still pondering his future when the Reds come to town.

Adelaide have a poor record at Bluetongue, especially in recent years, but they are playing with a new found assurance under Spanish coach Josep Gombau – although they seemed to get tired on the weekend against Victory. They won't want to repeat that against the Mariners who are known for finishing over the top of teams through their superior fitness.

In fact, this is a perfect time for Adelaide to visit Gosford with some hope of taking something from the game. Whatever the outcome of the coaching question, Arnie will be distracted...distracted – elated; distracted – devastated; or distracted – still in the dark. That will certainly have an effect on the players, who will need him to be fully focussed on an Adelaide team bristling with confidence and ability and really annoyed they let two points slip at home to Victory in the dying seconds.



As for the Mariners themselves – they got out of goal against Heart after going two goals down. They did seem to dominate possession but, with McGlinchey on the bench, lacked a cutting edge in the final third. He made a huge difference when he came on and is certain to start this week.

I was pleased for Justin Pasfield in redeeming himself after a bad error gave Heart the lead on the week-

end. He made a couple of outstanding saves afterwards to help rescue a point – in particular, his save at the death to deny Williams a hat trick will definitely make the highlights reel. He can justifiably feel as though he has done enough already this season to have made the number one jumper his own and, as goalkeeping is all about confidence, I expect him to really grow in the role.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Mariners 1.80 Draw 3.60 Adelaide 5.00	Played 25 Mariners 13 Adelaide 6 Draw 6
Referee: Peter Green	

Radio Broadcast: 92.5 ABC Central Coast, 891 ABC Adelaide, ABC Local Radio South Australia, Grandstand Digital Adelaide and Online/Mobile phone app, Coast FM

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvADL

**Kiss of Death
Mariners 2-2 Adelaide**

This will be an outstanding game between two teams I expect to be there or thereabouts when the whips are cracking at the end of the season. Some excellent play and probably a few goals, with two excellent teams likely to cancel each other out.

Unless Arnie has learned his future – in which case, look out Reds!

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets and more recently Straight Jacket – published by High Horse Books and available in all good book stores. www.adrian-deans.com



Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (GK) (c)
3.Nigel BOOGAARD
4.Jon McKAIN
5.Osama MALIK
7.JERONIMO
8.ISAIAS
9.Sergio CIRIO
12.Antony GOLEC
13.Steven LUSTICA
14.Cameron WATSON
17.Awer MABIL
18.Michael ZULLO
19.Jake BARKER-DAISH
20.Paul IZZO (GK)
21.Tarek ELRICH
22.Fabio FERREIRA
23.Jordan ELSEY
24.Brent McGRATH
Two to be omitted

Ins: 3.Nigel BOOGAARD (returns from suspension), 8.ISAIAS (returns from suspension), 12.Antony GOLEC (promoted), 20.Paul IZZO (GK) (promoted)

Outs: 16.Daniel BOWLES (ankle – 7 weeks), 30.John HALL (GK) (omitted)

Unavailable: CASSIO (quad – 2-3 weeks), Marcelo CARRUSCA (adductor – 2 weeks), Bruce DJITE (ankle – 3-4 weeks)

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Sydney FC Line Up

- 1.Ivan NECEVSKI (GK)
 - 2.Seb RYALL
 - 3.Mark WARREN
 - 5.Matt JURMAN
 - 6.Nikola PETKOVIC
 - 7.Brett EMERTON
 - 10.Alessandro DEL PIERO
 - 11.Richard GARCIA
 - 13.Tiago CALVANO
 - 14.Mitchell MALLIA
 - 16.Joel CHIANESE
 - 19.Nicky CARLE
 - 20.Vedran JANJETOVIC (GK)
 - 21.Yairo YAU
 - 22.Ali ABBAS
 - 23.Rhyan GRANT
 - 27.Chris NAUMOFF
 - 28.Matt THOMPSON.
- **Two to be omitted****

Ins: 13.Tiago CALVANO, 21.Yairo YAU, 27.Chris NAUMOFF.

Outs: 8.Predrag BOJIC.

Unavailable: Terry MCFLYNN (Groin – 2 weeks), Peter TRIANTIS (groin - long term), Terry ANTONIS (thigh – long term), Corey GAMEIRO (knee – 2 weeks), Predrag BOJIC (calf - 1 week).



Phoenix Line Up

- 1.Glen MOSS (GK)
- 2.Manny MUSCAT
- 3.Reece CAIRA
- 5.Michael BOXALL
- 6.Josh BRINDELL-SOUTH
- 7.Leo BERTOS
- 8.Paul IFILL
- 9.Kenny CUNNINGHAM
- 10.Jeremy HUYSEGEMS
- 11.Steven BROCKIE
- 13.Albert RIERA
- 15.Jason HICKS
- 16.Louis FENTON
- 17.Vince LIA
- 18.Ben SIGMUND
- 21.Carlos HERNANDEZ
- 22.Andrew DURANTE (c)
- 30.Jacob SPOONLEY (GK).

****Two to be omitted****

In: 16.Louis Fenton (returns from shoulder injury).6.Josh Brindell-South (promoted)

Out: Nil.

Unavailable: 14.Alex Rufer (under-17 international duty), 20.Lewis Italiano (GK,ankle injury 4-6 weeks), 23.Michael Ridenton (under-17 international duty).

Sydney FC v West Sydney Wanderers

Sat Oct 26 Allianz Stadium 7:30 PM

Sydney Derby set to paint the town red and blue

Bryson Ferreira

Sydney FC will be looking to **continue their unbeaten home record in 2013 against arch rivals, the Western Sydney Wanderers on Saturday night.**

The fourth instalment of the Sydney derby is set to be played in front of a massive crowd at Allianz stadium, one that will rival the current record attendance for a regular A-League game of 35,410, in the season opener against the Jets last year.

The Sky Blues will be looking to make amends for a humiliating loss to the Roar in round 2, a game where they were lucky to only concede four goals.

Their bitter Western rivals will also be looking for improvement after a somewhat disappointing 1-1 draw with Wellington.



Sydney FC players are optimistic despite the rout in Brisbane, exacerbated by the fact they are likely to be without captain Alessandro Del Piero.

The Italian superstar suffered a calf strain in the Sky Blues loss to Brisbane on Saturday, but is yet to be ruled out of the derby.

The Club have also announced former captain Pacal Bosschaart has had his contract terminated after a ‘mutual agreement’ on Wednesday.

A horrible run of injuries for

Sat Oct 26 Allianz Stadium 7:30 PM

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Sydney FC 4.33	Played 3
Draw 3.60	Sydney 1
Wanderers 1.85	Wanderers 1
	Draw 1

Referee: Peter Green

Radio Broadcast: 702 ABC Sydney, 666 ABC Canberra, ABC Local Radio NSW, Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #SydneyDerby

Kiss of Death Sydney 1-1 Wanderers

wait six days before playing again once he has recovered.

Although Tony Popovic has plenty of cover for Mooy in midfield, none of his options possess the same ability to launch counter attacks that link up with the likes of Bridge, Hersi and Juric.

Jason Trifiro and Iacopo La Rocca are more than capable defensive midfielders, but do not offer as much going forward, something that must be addressed after the Wanderers failed to strike the killer blow against the Phoenix last week.

Under international protocol on head injuries, Mooy must



Wanderers Line Up

- 1.Ante COVIC (GK)
- 2.Shannon COLE
- 3.Adam D'APUZZO
- 4.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY
- 5.Michael BEAUCHAMP
- 6.Jerome POLENZ
- 7.Labinot HALITI
- 8.Mateo POLJAK
- 9.Tomi JURIC
- 10.Aaron MOOY
- 11.Brendon SANTALAB
- 12.Tahj MINNIECON
- 13.Matthew SPIRANOVIC
- 17.Yousseuf HERSI
- 18.Iacopo LA ROCCA
- 19.Mark BRIDGE
- 20.Jerrad TYSON (GK)
- 21.Shinji ONO
- 22.Dean HEFFERNAN
- 23.Jason TRIFIRO

****Four to be omitted****

Ins: 22.Dean HEFFERNAN (promoted), 12.Tahj MINNIECON (promoted), 13.Matthew SPIRANOVIC (promoted), 23.Jason TRIFIRO (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 15.Yianni Perkatis (knee – 1 week), 16.Josh Barresi (leg – 1 week), 14.Kwabena Appiah (leg – 2 weeks)

Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets

Sun Oct 27 McLean Park, Napier 3 PM

A-League Football Moves To Napier

Joe Gallagher

An historic fixture this weekend sees **A-League football played at its easternmost point on Sunday, as Wellington Phoenix plays ‘host’ to Newcastle Jets in Napier.**

It’s Wellington’s fifth crack at a home away from home – following excursions to Christchurch, Dunedin, Palmerston North and Auckland in recent times – and in an odd way might provide the visiting Jets with a peculiar sense of familiarity.

The summery Hawke’s Bay climate might be more suited to the men from New South Wales’ coast, a far cry from the windy, rainy (if you take any notice of the choruses echoing from the Yellow Fever in the capital) Wellington.

But there will be an enthusiastic and vocal crowd in attendance to support the Phoenix.

The Jets have long viewed a trip to New Zealand with the same enthusiasm as a child visiting the dentist. After a 1-0 victory in August 2007, the Novocastrians endured nine trips across the ditch without success. Until last season, that was.

A much needed 2-1 win last March put a halt to Newcastle’s dreadful run against the ‘Nix, but there’s still little to say that Wellington aren’t a serious banana skin for the Jets. They’ve managed just five wins in 19 attempts against the Phoenix.

If there’s any side in the competition that Wellington would like to face as they look to kickstart their



campaign, it’s Newcastle. Conversely, Gary van Egmond would consider few sides less favourable than the Phoenix as he looks to generate some momentum for his stuttering outfit.

Like Wellington, van Egmond’s men recorded their first point of the season on Sunday. But the two draws will be viewed in starkly dissimilar light by the two managers. Newcastle’s dour 0-0 draw against Perth was scarcely a source of inspiration for van Egmond. The effort, labelled ‘poor’ by their coach, was the second consecutive game they’ve gone scoreless and the return of marquee man Emile Heskey cannot come soon enough for the

Jets.

They’re dearly missing Heskey’s pairing with Ryan Griffiths, which added 18 goals last term.

On the other hand, Wellington’s 1-1 stalemate in Parramatta against last season’s premiers has reinvigorated the club’s enthusiasm. Many a Phoenix side would have rolled over having lost the opening goal in front of a packed Pirtek Stadium. Not this lot. They rallied, snatched the equaliser through the evergreen Jeremy Brockie and could have even grabbed a winner late on.

They will welcome some consistency in their matchday squad, with their international quartet of Glen Moss, Andrew Durante, Leo

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Phoenix 2.10	Played 19
Draw 3.50	Phoenix 12
Jets 3.75	Jets 5
	Drawn 2

Referee: Adam Kersey

Radio Broadcast: 1233 ABC Newcastle, Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WELvNEW

Kiss of Death Phoenix 3-1 Jets

Bertos and Brockie still finding their feet after travelling between Wellington, Los Angeles, Trinidad and Tobago and Sydney in the past fortnight.

The four will check into Napier this weekend but the travelling won’t stop there – trips to Melbourne, Christchurch, Gosford and Sydney beckon before the Phoenix play their next match at Westpac Stadium.

It’s a tough period for the Phoenix but they, like Newcastle, will need to get the wheels in motion soon, to avoid losing touch with the early pacesetters.

Napier is unfamiliar territory for both outfits, but long distance travel is merely a reality of A-League football. Both coaches would agree, travelling home would be much more preferable with three points in the bank.



Jets Line Up

- 1.Mark BIRIGHITTI (GK)
- 2.Scott NEVILLE
- 3.Taylor REGAN
- 4.Kew JALIENS
- 5.Ben KANTAROVSKI
- 6.Zenon CARAVELLA
- 7.Andrew HOOLE
- 8.Ruben ZADKOVICH
- 10.Nathan BURNS
- 11.Craig GOODWIN
- 12.Connor CHAPMAN
- 15.Josh BRILLANTE
- 16.Jacob PEPPER
- 18.James BROWN
- 19.Michael BRIDGES
- 20.Ben KENNEDY
- 21.Sam GALLAWAY
- 22.Adam TAGGART.

****Two to be omitted****

Ins: Taylor REGAN (promoted), Ben KANTAROVSKI (promoted).

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Emile HESKEY (knee – 1 to 2 weeks), Mitch COOPER (knee – long term).

Newcastle Jets Official Merchandise available from:
Hunter Sports Superstore
Ausgrid Stadium, 294 Turton Road,
New Lambton NSW 2305

Get your Jets Gear Online at:
www.newcastlejets.com.au

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**Glory Line Up**

1.Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)
2.Jack CLISBY
3.Brandon O'NEILL
4.Ryan EDWARDS
5.Steve PANTELIDIS
6.Cameron EDWARDS
7.Jacob BURNS (c)
8.Ryo NAGAI
10.Jamie MACLAREN
11.Adrian ZAHRA
14.Steven McGARRY
16.Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES
17.Chris HAROLD
18.Jack DUNCAN
20.Daniel DE SILVA
21.Scott JAMIESON
23.Michael THWAITE
24.Matthew DAVIES
Two to be omitted

Ins: 24.Matthew DAVIES (promoted), 8.Ryo NAGAI (promoted), 23.Michael THWAITE (promoted)

Outs: 19.Joshua RISDON (knee, 8 weeks)
Unavailable: 9.Shane SMELTZ (hip – 2 weeks), 13.Travis DODD (knee – ongoing), 15.Isaka CERNAK (hip – 2 weeks), 19.Joshua RISDON (knee, 8 weeks)

Perth Glory v Melbourne Heart**Sun Oct 27 NIB stadium 5:00 PM****Heart Go West For Glory Test****Peter Simcox**

Perth Glory and Melbourne Heart will both be looking for their first wins of the new A-League season when they meet in round three at the nib Stadium on Sunday (5pm EST - 2pm WA Time). The team from the West will play at home for the first time this season and are coming off a hard fought, but uninspiring 0-0 draw against Newcastle Jets at Hunter Stadium last week. The Heart meanwhile threw away a two goal lead to draw 2-2 against Central Coast Mariners at AAMI Park, so both will be looking to open their accounts on Sunday. David Williams replaced Harry Kewell in the number 10 position last week and impressed in his partnership with Gol Gol Mebrahtu, scoring a double against the Mariners. The new signings this season has given the Heart a new lease of life, and Massimo Muroccca and Iain Ramsey run the show in the middle of the park, while former Leeds United defender Patrick Kisnorbo and Dutchman Rob Wieringa have been solid at the heart of the back four. They have struggled



on the road in recent seasons, but the Heart will fancy their chances for winning outside Victoria, which they failed to do the whole of last season. Their only away win was against Melbourne Victory in the first Derby game of the season. Perth ended last season well under Alistair Edwards, and his young squad has started to gel, but will have to be at their best to kick start their season with a win on Sunday. Midfielder Brandon O'Neill has filled the void left by the injured Michael Thwaite at the back, and with Ljubo Milicevic walking out of the club, the defensive depth has been tested, but he has come through with flying colours.

Young Socceroos striker Jamie MacLaren has found the transition to A-League football a tough assignment, but he has had to shoulder the responsibility with Shane Smeltz still two weeks away from fitness, and he will be looking forward to his A-League home debut this weekend. Both sides will hopefully welcome back influential players for the Sunday's game, with Rio Nagai and Michael Thwaite set for a return for the home side, but Josh Risdon is in doubt with a knee injury. John Aloisi will be monitoring the fitness of Kewell, who missed the Mariners game with whip lash, sustained during the Melbourne

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Glory 2.20	Played 10
Draw 3.40	Glory 4
Heart 3.60	Heart 3
	Drawn 3

Referee: Kris Griffiths- Jones

Radio Broadcast: 720 ABC Perth, ABC Local Radio WA, 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local Radio Victoria, Grandstand Digital, Online/ Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PERVMHT

**Kiss of Death
Glory 2-1 Heart**

derby in round one, but it looks likely the former Socceroo will not travel, but new striker Michael Mifsud will bolster the Heart squad and make his A-League debut after returning from international duty with Malta. The Heart has only won once in the West, a 2-1 win in round 11 2012, with Mate Dugandzic scoring with only three minutes remaining. But their last two visits to the nib Stadium has seen the home side take out the Glory, the most recent victory was in round 3 last season when Billy Mehmet and Dean Heffernan scored in a 2-0 win. The two sides have already met twice in Western Australia this season in warm up

**Heart Line Up**

1.Andrew REDMAYNE (GK)
3.Robbie WIELAERT (C)
5.Sam MITCHINSON
6.Patrick GERHARDT
7.Iain RAMSAY
8.Massimo MUROCCCA
11.Michael MIFSUD
14.Golgol MEBRAHTU
15.David WILLIAMS
16.Aziz BEHICH
17.Jason HOFFMAN
19.Benjamin GARUCCIO
20.Tando VELAPHI (GK)
21.Stefan MAUK
22.Nick KALMAR
23.Mate DUGANDZIC
24.Patrick KISNORBO
25.Andrea MIGLIORINI
Two to be omitted

Ins: 11.Michael MIFSUD (returns from international duty with Malta), 5.Sam MITCHINSON (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 4.Orlando ENGELAAR (Fractured tibia – long-term), 9.Dylan MACALLISTER (Hamstring – 3-6 weeks), 10.Harry Kewell (whiplash – undisclosed), 13.Jonatan GERMANO (Hamstring – three weeks)

Short Passes

The Foxtel National Youth League 2013/14 Season commences this weekend, when Brisbane Roar host Melbourne Victory at Goodwin Park, Brisbane on Saturday. Twice during the season a Foxtel National Youth League match will serve as a curtain-raiser for a Hyundai A-League match. The first being on Sunday 8 December 2013 when Melbourne Victory host the Newcastle Jets at AAMI Park and the second when Sydney FC face the Central Coast Mariners at Allianz Stadium Saturday 18 January 2014. Another significant match-up will occur on the Australia Day Public Holiday when Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC go head-to-head in the Big Blue at Lakeside Stadium.

Round One
Sat 26 Oct KO 2:30pm
Brisbane Roar Vs Melbourne Victory
Goodwin Park

Perth Glory Vs Melbourne Heart
Intiga Stadium

AIS Vs Newcastle Jets
AIS Athletics Track, Canberra

Sun 27 Oct KO 10:30am
Central Coast Mariners Youth Vs Adelaide United
Centre of Excellence

Sydney FC Vs Western Sydney
Wanderers
Cromer Park

Round 3: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Victory - 7 Roar - 3 - Draw - 5 Mariners - 7 Adelaide - 5 Draw - 3 Sydney FC - 11 Wanderers - 1 Draw - 3 Phoenix - 7 Jets - 3 Draw - 5 Glory - 14 Heart - 0 Draw - 1

Santo Cilauro 04

Victory
CCM
WSW
Phoenix
Glory

**Last week: 4**

Working Dog Productions

George Donikian 03

Draw
Mariners
Wanderers
Draw
Heart

**Last week: 1**

Media Mogul

George Calombaris 05

Victory
Mariners
Wanderers
Phoenix
Draw

**Last week: 2**

No.1 Victory ticket holder

Eddie Krncevic 07

Draw
Mariners
Draw
Phoenix
Glory

**Last week:3**

Former Socceroo

John Perin 04

Victory
Mariners
Wanderers
Phoenix
Draw

**Last week: 3**

Hall of Fame Socceroo

Andy Harper 03

Victory
Mariners
Draw
Wellington
Draw

**Last week: 3**

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

Ross Alatsas 04

Victory
Mariners
Wanderers
Phoenix
Glory

**Last week: 2**

GM Greek Media Group

Jimmy Campbell 04

Victory
Mariners
Wanderers
Phoenix
Draw

**Last week: 2**

Former Socceroo

George Campbell 04

Victory
Draw
Wanderers
Phoenix
Glory

**Last week: 1**

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

Jimmy Rooney 02

Victory
Mariners
Draw
Phoenix
Draw

**Last week: 1**

World Cup '74 Socceroo

Roger Sleeman 05

Draw
Mariners
Wanderers
Phoenix
Draw

**Last week: 4**

Reigning Tipping Champ

John Doyle 02

Draw
Mariners
Wests
Phoenix
Draw

**Last week: 1**

Original Captain Socceroo

Peter Katholos 05

Victory
Draw
Draw
Wellington
Perth

**Last week: 3**

Former Socceroo

Steve Blair 05

Brisbane
Draw
Wanderers
Wellington
Heart

**Last week: 1**

Former Socceroo

Kiss Of Death 05

Draw
Draw
Draw
Phoenix
Glory

**Last week: 2**

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GOAL! WEEKLY



ADAMA

TRAORE



Northcote secures VPL title in Herculean final

Victorian Premier League

Brandon Galgano

Northcote City have been crowned the 2013 Victorian Premier League champions following a dramatic 3-2 extra time victory over Bentleigh Greens on Saturday afternoon. On a perfect day for football at AAMI Park it was City who overcame a determined Bentleigh outfit to secure the title.

Having defeated City only two weeks ago in the first Preliminary final, Bentleigh were understandably confident early on and had a host of opportunities to take the lead. The first came from skipper Wayne Wallace who scooped his strike over the cross bar following an excellent cut back from Sherbon after only 90 seconds.

Bentleigh thought they had the lead just two minutes later though as Luke Sherbon found himself with space in the box only for his strike to be brilliantly denied by Petropoulos before Liam McCormick followed up and struck home into an empty net. Unfortunately for the winger though the assistant referee had raised his flag for offside so the goal didn't count.

The first half's biggest moment of controversy was in the 19th minute though as Kristian Konstantinidis was adjudged to have brought down Ryan De Vries in the box with the referee pointing to the spot much to the dismay of the Northcote play-

ers who felt that De Vries had gone down too easily. Fortunately for City though Luke Sherbon skyed the resulting spot kick high and wide of the goal keeping the score at 0-0 which is how both sides went into the break.

The second half saw Northcote begin to assert themselves on the contest with Bentleigh keeper Stuart Webster forced into two fantastic stops early in the period to keep the scores level.

Just under twenty minutes into the second half though Northcote were in front as a superb run down the right and cut back from Kounavelis opened up space in the box with the winger striking on his left foot which took a deflection off a defender on its way into the net making it 1-0 Northcote City.

Bentleigh didn't have to wait long though for their equaliser as Ryan De Vries got on the end of a fantastic cross from Sherbon to score from close range, making it 1-1 after sixty eight minutes.

And with neither side able to score that all important second the match went into extra time.

It was now where the contest really began to heat up and just three minutes into the first half of extra time Bentleigh had the lead with a set piece finding the head of Luke Sherbon who made up for his earlier penalty miss to head home making it 2-1.

But just as it seemed that Bentleigh might just take the lead into the half-way point of extra time a brain snap from Luke Pilkington saw the leaders down to ten men. Having won a throw in off Kounavelis the former Melbourne Victory defender seemingly kicked his opponent



VPL Grand Final Details

Northcote City 3-2 Bentleigh Greens

Saturday 19th October at AAMI PARK

Scorers:

Northcote: Kounavelis 63', Lujic 104', Gasparis 108'

Greens: De Vries 68', Sherbon 93'

Jimmy Rooney Medal (Best On Ground): Milos Lujic (Northcote)



Northcote City's Milos Lujic heads home from close range to send the Grand Final into extra time.

which the referee proceeded to show a straight red card for.

And just two minutes later Northcote were level with big man Milos Lujic getting on the end of a fantastic cross to header home past Webster making it 2-2.

The pinnacle moment came in the 108th minute though as a fantastic corner from Gasparis went past

everybody despite seemingly taking a touch off the head of Lujic to find its way into the back of the net putting Northcote ahead at 3-2 with just twelve minutes to play.

There was still one last moment of drama to come through. With only seconds to play as the match ticked into the 122nd minute Bentleigh broke forward thought Aaron Wil-

ford who found himself one on one with Petropoulos who brilliantly rushed off his line to deny the Englishman an equaliser with the whistle blown just seconds later meaning Northcote City had been crowned as the 2013 Victorian Premier League Champions.

Congratulations to all involved at the club who have showed on many

occasions throughout the season why they thoroughly deserved the title.

Hopefully we will see you all back here in 2014 for the next instalment of the local game.

By Brandon Galgano (@BGAL-GANO94)



Coach Goran Lozanovski and captain Alex Rojas



Campione! Campione! Ole! Ole! Ole!



President Peter Kotsiris and member Nick Tsamis



Bentleigh Greens line up before the match

NORTHCOTE CITY



PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
VICTORIA

GOAL!

WEEKLY



VPL 2013 Grand Final

Northcote City 3 (Kounavelis 63', Lujic 104', Gasparis 108') defeated **Bentleigh Greens 2** (De Vries 68', Sherbon 93') (AET)

Northcote City : Chris Theodoridis-Petropoulos, 2. Adrian Chiappetta, 6. Bonel Obradovic, 12. Hayden D'agostino, 17. Mari-nos Gasparis (5. Nick Tzoulis 112'), 9. Milos Lujic, 18. Michael Eager, 8. James Kalifatidis (14. Michael Catalano 80'), 10. Alex Rojas (11. Dean Piemonte 74'), 20. Evan Kounavelis, 4. Kristian Konstantinidis.

Unused Subs: 1. Frazer Siddall, 21. Harry Kinigopoulos
Yellow Cards: D'agostino 12', Lujic 104', Theodoridis-Petropoulos 113'
Red Cars: Nil

Bentleigh Greens 21. Stuart Webster, 2. Dominic D'angelo, 14. Aron Wilford, 5. Jack Webster, 6. Thomas Mathews, 8. Wayne Wallace, 19. Liam McCormick (77. Stephen Hatzikostas 74'), 13. Dane Milovanovic, 20. Luke Sherbon, 35. David Storton (17. Jamie De Abreu 67') (Luke Pilkington 99'), 55. Ryan De Vries

Unused Subs: 1. George Malliaras, 22. Nick Modaffari
Yellow Cards: Sherbon 32', Wallace 36', Pilkington 74', Milovanovic 109'
Red Cards: Pilkington 102'

FFV VPL CHAMPIONS 2013

Couch Potato

ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER
Sky Bet Championship Round 14
Middlesbrough v Doncaster 5:40am
LIVE

Scottish Premiership Round 11
Ross County v Inverness 5:45am
LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 10 Stuttgart v
Nuremberg 7:45am 1st Airing
Copa Sudamericana Round 16 2nd
Leg Highlights Show 3:05pm 1st
Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 14
Barnsley v Sheff Weds 10:10pm
LIVE

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER
Bundesliga Round 10 Schalke v
Dortmund 12:25am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 14
Burnley v QPR 1:00am LIVE on
setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 10 Wolfsburg v
Werder Bremen 3:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 10 Bayern
Munich v Hertha Berlin 5:30am 1st
Airing
Scottish Premiership Round 11
Partick v Celtic 11:40pm LIVE

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER
Bundesliga Round 10 Monchenglad-
bach v Frankfurt 3:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 10 Freiburg v
Hamburg 5:30am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 10 Highlights
Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 14
Highlights Show 9:50pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER
Sky Bet Championship Round 14
Brighton v Watford 6:40am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 11
Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER
Capital One Cup Round 4 Arsenal v
Chelsea 6:40am LIVE
Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final
1st Leg Teams TBC 11:40am LIVE
Scottish League Cup Quarter Final
Hibernian v Hearts 1:50pm 1st Airing
Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final
1st Leg Teams TBC 5:10pm LIVE

FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
Skrill Premier Round 17 Salisbury v
Hereford 6:40am LIVE
Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final
1st Leg Teams TBC 11:40am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 11 Preview Show
7:00pm 1st Airing
Capital One Cup Round 4 High-
lights Show 9:50pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
Bundesliga Round 11 Dortmund v
Stuttgart 6:25am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 15
Ipswich v Barnsley 6:45am LIVE on
setantasportsplus.com
Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final
1st Leg Highlights Show 12:10pm
1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 15
Watford v Leicester 11:10pm LIVE

SBS ONE
Friday October 25th
7:00 pm A-League Live – Round 3:
Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar

Every Sunday
4:30 pm UEFA Champions League
Magazine

Every Monday
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday
8:30 pm Thursday FC
11:00 pm UEFA Champions League
Magazine

SBS TWO
Every Monday
8:40 pm A-League Highlights Show

Every Tuesday
5:00 pm A-League Highlights Show



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-
offs.

WEEK 11
Sat Oct 26 Crystal Palace v Arsenal
10.35 pm Fox 1

Sun Oct 27 Manchester United v Stoke
12.50 am Fox 1

Sun Oct 27 Aston Villa v Everton
12.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Oct 27 Liverpool v West Brom
12.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Oct 27 Norwich v Cardiff
12.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Oct 27 Southampton v Fulham
3.20 am Fox 1

Mon Oct 28 Sunderland v Newcastle
12.15 am Fox 1

Mon Oct 28 Chelsea v Manchester City
2.50 am Fox 1

Mon Oct 28 Tottenham v Hull
2.50 am Fox 2

Mon Oct 28 Swansea v West Ham
2.50 am Fox 3

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE - ALL GAMES FOX 1
Fri Oct 25 Victory v Brisbane 7.30 pm
Sat Oct 26 Mariners v Adelaide 5.30 pm
Sat Oct 26 Sydney v Wanderers 7.45 pm
Sun Oct 27 Phoenix v Jets 3.00 pm
Sun Oct 27 Perth v Melb Heart 5.00 pm

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

SPANISH LA LIGA
Sun Oct 27 Barcelona v Real Madrid
2.55 am Fox 2

Sun Oct 28 Atletico Madrid v Real Betis
6.55 am Fox 3

TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

Another week means another week of enthralling A-League action. My match of the week between Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United definitely lived up to expectations of fans around the country.

There was plenty of excitement, controversy and goals from both teams. The referees made numerous atrocious decisions to gift Adelaide their two goals and disallowed Victory a Connor Pain goal in the first goal—please watch the replays and you be the judge. But Melbourne showed their determination and came back with two second half goals to Finkler and Troisi earning a draw. But we must move to this week's match of the week between Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar.

Friday night sees one of the most exciting match ups so far this season with Brisbane coming off

a massive victory over Sydney FC. Roar's 4-0 dominance over Sydney proved their mettle. This game has entertainment written all over it with plenty of goals and tense moments for the fans. Melbourne Victory has the heart to work and drive to match Brisbane in all aspects of the match and will attack relentlessly as they always do. I am tipping a 3-2 win for Victory and Pain will score his first (should be second) goal of the season.

The other standout game for round three is the Sydney derby between Sydney FC and Western Sydney Wanderers. Both sides are sitting on two points after 2 rounds and will be bullish in their efforts of securing the victory. Expect a tough, physical encounter with few scoring opportunities. WSW will push harder and take the three points and climb up the ladder.

The English Premier League delivers more ripper matches this round with a top four battle between Chelsea and Manchester City. Chelsea finally put some serious numbers on the scoreboard with the strikers having a field

day against Cardiff City. Manchester City are looking the real deal this year and punished their opponents with big wins including a 4-1 thrashing over hometown rivals Manchester United. This should be one to remember with solid defence from Chelsea but I think City's firepower will be too much and likely see a 2-1 win go their way.

The other game to watch is Tottenham versus Hull City in a potential cracker. Tottenham are a danger side who have done pretty well in recent seasons, especially last season, and will look to continue their rise. Hull City has been promoted from the Championship and thus far is doing well in tenth position on the table. It would be nice to see Hull City come away with a point but Tottenham should put a number of goals into the net and get the points.

Once the games are done and dusted, The A-League Highlights Show on Monday night will satisfy your thirst for a compressive recap of the weekend's games.

Katsa's Korner

George Katsamboukas

VPL delivers epic finale

The VPL Championship has been run and won, with Northcote City taking out the title having defeated Benteigh Greens in an action packed Final on Saturday, at Lucky You're With AAMI Stadium

A Final that had everything, from Penalty Misses, Open Goal Misses, and a Red Ticket.

The choice of Venue was certainly interesting, as was the partnership with Melbourne Heart, where punters for \$25, could watch both the VPL Final and then stay on to watch Melbourne Heart VS Central Coast Mariners.

Net result was that 1461 attended, a relatively poor attendance, perhaps the \$25 Admission Fee put many off, and maybe, just Maybe, the FFV should look at supporting their own Clubs come Finals time when it comes to selection of venues?

Over to the actual game we go where it was inevitably decided the same way as last year's Final between Dandy Thunder VS Oakleigh Canons was, where a red ticket turned the game on its head.

Benteigh were somewhat cruising in Extra Time, and leading 2-1, when Benteigh's Pilkington, who had previously earned himself a yellow ticket from the subs bench for throwing the ball on a Northcote Player, lashed out with a kick on Kounavelis from a dead ball, in fact, Pilkington was about to take a throw in.

Northcote then gained the ascendancy and went bang bang to take out the Final 3-2.

Moral of the Story is that Finals



Benteigh's Luke Pilkington sees red in the VPL Grand Final. Photo: ANITA MILAS

and Championships are won by getting the 1% 'rs correct, finishing a Game with 11 Men on the park is a very important %1'r.

You can excuse a player for being sent off for preventing a goal with a last man tackle or handball on Goal line, but not for lashing out on an opponent.

Oakleigh suffered a similar fate last year when they were reduced to 10 men when an Oakleigh Player received a second Yellow for kicking the ball away after a free kick was awarded against him. The rest is History.

Congratulations to Northcote on a Great Year, where they finished on top after the Home and Away Games, and went on to win their first VPL Championships, which was celebrated by their faithful into the wee hours of Sunday Morning.

Benteigh also are to be congratulated in their great season also, and I am sure that both these Teams will feature once again next season.

The Media needed a dose of Nasal Spray Technology announcing that

Melbourne Victory's Ange Postecoglou would be announced as the new Soccerero Coach.

That was soon watered down with the news that he would be interviewed as would Goal a Game Arnie (Graham Arnold), and Tony Popovic.

All 3 Clubs, Victory, Mariners and Wanderers would be awaiting the FFA's decision with baited breath, as one of these 3 Clubs are going to have to find a replacement Coach.

Psychologists and Therapist have been put on notice for next weekend, as Club Powerbrokers prepare for their first weekend without Local Football.

This will test them, my advice is find another activity before the better half starts drawing up a list of things that have been neglected around the house during the winter months.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

Great Scott

Steven Scott

EPL's tight start

At the start of every English Premier League (EPL) season for the past few years it's been pretty common to hear the same record being played. The race for the title is down to just a few clubs. The top four has already been decided before a ball has been kicked and all the other clubs are playing for fifth spot and below.

All the pundits were predicting Manchester United, Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal to occupy the top four places on the EPL at the end of this season. None of the other clubs were really given a chance to challenge these clubs.

Despite the fact it is pretty early in the season, with just eight rounds played, they may just be a little off the mark with their pre-season predictions given the way this season has started. If the results in the opening eight rounds are anything to go by, this season could be one of the closest ever contested EPL title races.

At the time of writing there is just four points separating the top seven clubs. The biggest surprise to most would be the top seven currently doesn't include reigning EPL champions Manchester United.

United have had their worst start to an EPL season since the 2005/06 campaign, a year they finished runner-up in the title race. History is also on United's side that they do recover from slow starts though, with the club having an equally bad start to the 1992/93 season and the club went on to win the title that year by ten points.

Some of the names making up the top seven include some of the regular clubs who have finished high up on the table in the previous few seasons – those being Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal.

Arsenal is the club setting the pace at the moment, sitting on top of the EPL table. They are currently making the headlines for all the right reasons which are a complete contrast to the coverage they were receiving before the season kicked off due to their lack of signings.

The surprise packets so far have been Southampton and Everton. Southampton, in just their second year back in the EPL, currently sitting in sixth spot and deservedly so. They have matched it with some of the bigger clubs, holding Manchester United to a draw at Old Trafford and knocking off Liverpool at Anfield.

Everton, currently sitting seventh, have also been matching it with some of the bigger clubs, including a victory over Chelsea.

Here's hoping the opening eight rounds are a preview of what's still to come and the battle for the EPL title continues to be a close one as the season rolls on.

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Sandy completes WPL Double

By Niki Cook

Sandringham claimed its first Women's Premier League title in dramatic fashion, with a Nicola Prins goal deep in second half stoppage time breaking the stalemate and sparking scenes of jubilation among its players and supporters.

It was a heartbreaking end to the campaign for minor premier South Melbourne Women's, which had enjoyed the better of the game's chances, but was instead left to rue missed opportunities and reflect on a season in which it has twice fallen at the final hurdle. Sandringham becomes the second club in successive years to achieve the double, adding the WPL title to its earlier State Knockout Cup win. Hard-working South young gun Jessica Au was named player of the match, with a strong performance for the losing side.

With the draining heat clearly taking its toll on the players, the pace of the game had slowed in the latter stages of the second half, and it appeared that the teams would have to draw on their energy reserves for a further thirty minutes of extra time. But three minutes into stoppage time Sandringham won a free kick near the halfway line and lofted the ball forwards. The ball bounced, clearing the South defensive line, and Prins raced onto the loose ball, before looping her shot over the advancing Cassie Dimovski and into the net. A shell-shocked South had no time to respond, with the final whistle sounding soon after the restart to send the Sandringham contingent into raptures.

Hot and blustery conditions greeted the players at David Barro Stadium, with the synthetic surface adding to the heat for the teams. As the crowd gathered, a minute's silence was observed prior to the match in memory of John Hurley, the Sandringham WPL Administrator and staunch advocate of the women's game, who sadly passed

away last week.

South suffered a cruel blow mere seconds into the match, when star midfielder Morany Chek went down clutching her knee. After several minutes of assessment on the sidelines, it was determined that she could take no further part in the game, and so she was replaced by Selin Kuralay. The former Matilda proved a more than able replacement, but the forced change unsettled the South side, leading to some uncharacteristic loose passing in the early stages of the game.

The Sandringham players, however, also had nerves of their own, and so were unable to capitalise. The injury aside, the opening minutes were cagey and uneventful, as both teams tried to settle and adjust to the conditions.

The heat claimed an unexpected victim early in the first half, forcing one of the assistant referees from the field, and she was replaced by the fourth official. The players, however, appeared to cope better with the conditions, and the match started to come to life in the second half of the opening period.

South gained the ascendancy, with Jess Au and Alison Baker finding space out wide and Laura Spiranovic charging through the centre. Au, Spiranovic and Tiffany Eliadis all had attempts on goal in the final 15 minutes of the half, but were denied by a combination of solid keeping by Sandringham custodian Lucy Kapusta and wayward finishing.

Sandringham looked most dangerous on the break and had an excellent chance five minutes before the interval when Emma Runnalls was sent free down the right channel. Dimovski was out of her box quickly to hack the ball to safety, but her clearance only went as far as Stephanie Tanti. Unfortunately for Sandringham, she rushed her shot, which sailed harmlessly into the arms of the retreating Dimovski.

The game opened up somewhat in the second half, as players began



Sandringham leave things to the last minutes to score the winner and secure the title in dramatic fashion.

to tire in the hot conditions. South continued to have the bulk of play, while Sandringham looked to hit its opponent on the counter attack. Tanti had another excellent opportunity early in the half, when she charged down an attempted clearance and scampered through on goal. With only Dimovski to beat, she skewed her shot wide of the right hand post, much to the disappointment of the Sandringham support. Prins found herself in a good position shortly afterwards, but she too blazed her shot.

For South, Jess Au was becoming increasingly influential down the right flank, and was linking up

well with Kuralay to create in the final third. Midway through the half the outstanding Lucy Kapusta produced a phenomenal triple save to deny Baker, Eliadis and Kuralay in quick succession, as the minor premier looked certain to score. Kapusta was on hand once again 15 minutes from time to deny Eliadis, after she was put clean through by the industrious Kuralay.

Sandringham introduced Eliza Gleadell for the injured Runnalls, and South rang the changes with Lisa Fonua and Dani Gudelj replacing Sarah Sumner and Alison Baker respectively. Gudelj, in particular, had an immediate impact,

producing South's best chance of the match.

With less than five minutes remaining, she burst down the left and fired in a fierce shot that beat the diving Kapusta. The ball ricocheted off the upright and across the face of goal, where it was met by an onrushing Eliadis. With the open goal at her mercy, she somehow managed to miss the target, pushing the ball wide of the post. South was left to sorely rue that miss as, mere moments later, Prins made no mistake at the other end to secure Sandringham's second title of the season and its inaugural WPL crown.

WPL Grand Final

Sandringham 1 (Prins (90+3)
South Melbourne WFC 0

South Melbourne Women: 1. Cassandra Dimovski (Gk), 4. Demi Mihaloudis, 13. Alex Cheal, 9. Sarah Sumner (14. Lisa Fonua 67'), 8. Lauren Farrugia, 3. Natalie Martineau, 19. Morany Chek (2. Selin Kuralay 8', 6. Lucrece Laverdure 90+1'), 10. Tiffany Eliadis, 11. Jessica Au, 17. Alison Baker (12. Daniela Gudelj 83'), 5. Laura Spiranovic

Unused Subs: 7. Annabelle Gibney
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

Sandringham: 11. Lucy Kapusta (Gk), 13. Alli Kapusta, 3. Christie Parton, 8. Nicola Prins, 9. Emma Runnalls (12. Eliza Gleadell 68'), 10. Stephanie Tanti, 18. Sienna Fogarty, 20. Hannah Stuart, 15. Elaina Vatchky, 29. Emma Gunn, 6. Stephanie Parton

Unused Subs: 17. Sian Rogers, 4. Ruby Burke, 28. Emily Morris-Krause, 62. Irena Anset
Yellow Cards: Stuart (70')
Red Cards: Nil





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MARK MILLIGAN



Photo: ROMEL AMERIKHAS

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Vipers go 6 clear, Mickleham remain winless



WOMENS REVIEW RD 4 FC Richmond 7-2 Heidelberg FC

FCR - A.Stefanidis 2, K.Stensholt 2, M.Aloisio 2, A.Erenli
HFC - E.Elma, S.Jensen

A tight opening period saw the two sides trade goals to be locked at 2-2 before Richmond broke away with 2 in quick succession just before the break to lead 4-2. From there Richmond did not look back as they added a further 3 goals in the second half to make it 2 wins in a row as they knock off a struggling Heidelberg quite convincingly
Player Of The Game - Kristen Stensholt - (FC Richmond)

EFA Eagles 1-6 Melbourne Uni

EFA - H.Ryan
MU - M.Marques 3, N.Cook 2, P.Ribas

League leaders Melbourne Uni would have fancied themselves coming into the clash with bottom placed EFA Eagles and with good reason as they raced out to a 3-1 Half Time lead. The second half was much of the same from in form Melbourne as they coasted to a 6-1 win Marques the star of the show with a hat-trick.

Player Of The Game - Marcella Marques (Melbourne Uni FC)

Vic Vipers FC 2-5 Pascoe Vale FC

VV - K.Smith, B.Lavorgna
PV - S.Richardson 2, M.Marie 2, I.Jakab

Biggest clash of the night saw 2 great rivals take to the court. A game built as a classic did not disappoint a tight first half saw the scores locked at 1-1 with the talking point of the half Jess Byrne's red card for a cynical foul. With the score locked at 2-2 Pascoe just had to much in their arsenal firing 3 late goals to claim some revenge from last season FOz Cup semi final running out 5-2 victors.

Fitzroy FC 6-4 Ashburton FC

FFC - N.Rooney 3, S.Oddo 2, C.Fruscalzo
AFC - L.Barrett 3, D.Petreska
Final game on the card was a game of 2 halves with Fitzroy racing out to a 4-0 lead going into half time. An inspiring second half fight back lead by Leah Barrett got Ashburton get back to 4-4 an in with a chance



Stephanie Oddo slots home the winner from the 10 metre penalty spot.



Sarah Richardson celebrates her stunning strike by wishing her mother a happy birthday in a t-shirt message.

of victory, But a 5th foul penalty gifted Fitzroy the win as they maintain their fight for first place.

Player Of The Game - Leah Barrett - (Ashburton FC)

MENS REVIEW RD 5 Vic Vipers FC 7-4 Ashburton FC

VV: V. Leite 3, S. Alinejad 2, Jon. Barrientos, Jas. Barrientos
ASH: R. Castro, D. Acovissi, R. Covarrubias, A. Areggin
League Leaders Vic Vipers took on Ashburton to open round 5. Despite a double from Brazilian starlet, Vinicius, the vipers still found themselves 3-2 down at the break thanks to some magic from Ricky Castro and Rodrigo up front. The second half saw the Vipers step up to the occasion as they out scored the Green Machine by 5-1 as Shayan Alinejad scored a late double to seal a valuable win to keep the league leaders at the top of the pile.

Man of the Match: Vinicius Leite (Vic Vipers)

Albert Park 6-14 Metropolitan FC

APK: H. Do, C. Pham, H. Nguyen, T. Pham, T. Nguyen, A. Cobo (OG)
MET: T. Grgic 4, J. Julardzija 3, E. Simsek 2, D. Redzepovic 2, A. Redzepovic, A. Cobo, A. Karic



Vipers brazilian maestro Vinicius celebrates after completing his hat trick.

Next up was a real mismatch and it was no surprise that it was the heavily favoured Metro who took a commanding 5-3 lead with the returning Tomo Grgic bagging a double. The second half saw the Royal Blues inflict more pain on the hapless Albert Park by adding a further nine goals as another returning star in Juso Julardzija claimed a hat trick to ensure Metro went into equal second position on the ladder.

Man of the Match: Tomo Grgic (Metropolitan)

Mickleham FC 3-7 Hume FC

MICK: D. Kusturic, A. Mesinovic, L. Correa
HME: M. Vragovski 2, A. Alicevic 2, M. Tankir 2, M. Parlak

Last up Hume take on lowly Mickleham. Hume took off to a flying start with

doubles from star forward pairing in Matty Vragovski and Adem Alicevic to make it 5-1. Mickleham were very dangerous late in the second half scoring two goals in a row - some of the best futsal we have seen all season from Vlado Zoric's side - but it was too little too late as a Moe Tankir double put their hopes of claiming a result to rest.

Standings

NIKE V-LEAGUE Premiership

	P	W	L	D	F	A	FD	Pts
1 Vic Vipers FC	5	5	0	0	35	16	+19	15
2 Pascoe Vale FC	4	3	1	0	28	12	+16	9
3 Metropolitan FC	5	3	2	0	38	23	+15	9
4 Fitzroy FC	4	3	1	0	23	20	+3	9
5 Hume FC	5	2	2	0	34	24	+10	7
6 Ashburton FC	5	2	2	0	128	31	-3	7
7 Mickleham FC	5	0	5	0	19	46	-27	0
8 Albert Park FC	5	0	5	0	17	50	-33	0

Pepsi Womens WV-LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	FD	Pts
1 Melbourne Uni FC	4	4	0	0	27	5	+22	12
2 Pascoe Vale FC	4	3	1	0	29	8	+21	9
3 Fitzroy FC	4	3	1	0	13	21	-8	9
4 F.C Richmond	4	2	1	0	129	19	+10	7
5 Vic Vipers FC	4	1	1	0	216	14	+2	5
6 Ashburton FC	4	1	2	0	17	28	-11	4
7 Heidelberg FC	4	0	4	0	5	22	-17	0
8 EFA Eagles	4	0	4	0	9	28	-19	0

State League Championship

	P	W	L	D	F	A	FD	Pts
1 CF Brunswick	5	5	0	0	40	19	+21	15
2 FC Balwyn	4	4	0	0	32	9	+23	12
3 Moreland FC	5	3	2	0	26	23	+3	9
4 FC Carlton	5	2	2	0	123	21	+2	7
5 FC Northcote	4	2	2	0	15	22	-7	6
6 Brimbank FC	5	1	3	0	126	39	-13	4
7 FC Melbourne	5	1	4	0	23	25	-2	3
8 FC Essendon	5	0	5	0	16	43	-27	0

State League One

	P	W	L	D	F	A	FD	Pts
1 Brighton FC	5	4	1	0	0	28	13	+15 12
2 FC Collingwood	5	4	1	0	0	26	12	+14 12
3 FC Hawthorn		5	3	2	0	18	12	+6 9
4 C.F South Melb		5	3	2	0	19	14	+5 9
5 FC Prahran		5	2	2	0	23	19	+4 7
6 Coburg Athletic		5	2	3	0	17	24	-7 6
7 Toorak FC		5	1	3	0	16	25	-9 4
8 F.C Footscray		5	0	5	0	18	46	-28 0

State League Two

	P	W	L	D	F	A	FD	Pts
1 Doncaster FC	5	5	0	0	29	10	+19	15
2 Mcleod FC	5	4	1	0	28	22	+6	12
3 FC Preston	5	4	1	0	24	18	+6	12
4 FC Geelong	5	2	3	0	38	21	+17	6
5 FC Richmond	5	2	3	0	30	30	+0	6
6 Elsternwick FC	5	2	3	0	16	16	+0	6
7 EFA Eagles	5	1	4	0	19	28	-9	3
8 FC St Kilda	5	0	5	0	18	34	-16	0

NIKE MENS V-LEAGUE CLASHES

Sunday 27th October
6:00pm - Mickleham FC vs Albert Park FC
7:00pm - Fitzroy FC vs Ashburton FC

Friday 1st November
8:00pm - Metropolitan FC vs Pascoe Vale FC
9:00pm - Hume FC vs Vic Vipers FC

PEPSI WOMEN'S V-LEAGUE CLASHES

Friday 25th October
7:30pm - Ashburton FC vs Heidelberg FC
8:15pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs FC Richmond
9:00pm - Vic Vipers FC vs EFA Eagles
9:45pm - Melbourne Uni vs Fitzroy FC

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday
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(15 to 18 year olds)
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
- Elite Leagues** (boys & girls)
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Training

- Social League training**
for teams & individuals – improves skills & fitness, including goal keeper training
- Elite training**
high level training includes goal keeper training
- Junior training**
from beginners to elite
(see 'ALL Juniors – Boys & Girls' 'from 2 years to 16 years of age')

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- School Holiday Program**
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- Social Junior Leagues**
Create a team, for fun weekly scheduled matches (Mixed boys & Girls)

Elite Juniors

- Futsal training**
(INNER City FC for teams & individuals– skills, tactics & match (twice a week + match)
- Elite Futsal League**
Join an elite Club, elite skills, technic, tactics & fitness, includes representative squads interstate and overseas tournaments.
- Elite Futsal training**
high level training includes goal keeper training

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TWEETS OF THE WEEK



Compiled by Roy Skillen

There is no doubt that it has been something of a mixed few months for The Socceroos. World Cup Qualification had the country buzzing, but was quickly followed up by two humiliating 6-0 hidings at the hands of Brazil and France, which saw coach Holgar Hosiack finally sacked with the fans are already predicting doom and gloom for their country at the biggest sports tournament in the world.

Ben Clark @scouse_roar 16 Oct
 @StanCollimore Oz sadly will be cannon fodder. An absolute shambles at present. Not great preparation

Lets Hope that too many fans don't jump ship because of the mess that is the Socceroos at the moment. If you are thinking about doing so remember these wise words from the great Eric Cantona.

Football Quotes @FootballQuote_ 16 Oct
Cantona "You can change your wife, change your politics, change your religion. But never, never can you change your favourite football team"

Hope for the national set up did finally come in the form of a 3-0 win over Canada. Now I know its only Canada and they are more famous for their Mountie Police, Ice Hockey and, well that's about it, but as TV's The B-League pointed out the stats don't lie and there is hope for the future.



Boo's World

Mark Boric

So what do we know after the first two weeks of the A-League season? An important thing is that a game with any combination of Sydney FC, Newcastle Jets or Perth Glory has a high chance of being abysmal. Ditching the game and focussing on Ljubo Milicevic in The Squadron could have provided an entertainment factor to Newcastle v Perth. Even advertising breaks would have been a welcome relief to the tedium.

On Friday, with the prospective Socceroo coach Ange Postecogl going up against Barcelona Joe's Adelaide United, it was the referee who demanded to be the centre of attention. Memo to the FFA, giving them a pay rise only encourages



Sam Mac & Jules@thebleague 16 Oct
 Unforgettable achievement this morn for 1 Socceroo Vs Canada. Statistics don't lie #Positive-SocceroosStatistics (PIC) pic. twitter.com/Wg83Bih5LY

Many people are blaming the current poor Socceroos performances on its captain Lucas Neill whose lack of pace and match sharpness is a real cause for concern. But the former West Ham defender instead pointed the finger at the younger players of the group questioning their passion for the Green and Gold. TV pundit Robbie Slater took it pretty badly saying that Neill had now driven a wedge between the squad. I for one am certain that this was not Neill's intention and he was hoping to ignite some fire and be proven wrong. I am also sure that the current set of players are glad he doesn't use the same motivational techniques as Chelsea's stalwart defender John Terry.

Sportsidiot@Sportsidiot2 1
 "Torres does not care about his wife" pic.twitter.com/13cEJm5OBY

The FFA have declared that an Australian will be next to fill the Socceroos coaching position with Melbourne Victory's Ange Postecoglou firming as both the bookies and fans favorite. The man with best sounding Aussie name I have ever heard certainly earned his Victory wages at the weekend after a half time team talk saw his troops come back impressively from 2-0 down against Adelaide. The first half had seen two refereeing howlers with a penalty rewarded to Adelaide that never was and a Connor Pain goal for Victory disallowed for offside when he was probably three yards on. Ange in typical Ange style made his feelings clear when he pointed out that the home side was celebrating their 10th birthday.

Liam Bentley @FootballLiam 18 Oct
 "It was their birthday and they got a couple of presents" hilarious by Ange!!

Great quote but probably not as good as this one.

Football Quotes@FootballQuote_ 16 Oct
Ian Holloway: "Managing a league club is like making love to a mermaid. You should always be aiming for a top half finish."

International Goals Scored Vs Canada



PELE 0



MESSI 0



MARADONA 0



LECKIE 1

Tsigan's Tsigar



Mike Lilikakis

Another season, another conspiracy, another cheap Victory, another bleeding Heart. Nay, it's not just about the football puns, plebs; its a matter of proper life semantics.

REALITY CHEQUE?
 I remember when 'The Matrix' exploded on our screens and into our lives at the end of the last millennium, and it sprung endless conspiracy theories about our existence and purpose for life (or living). For me personally, it was a great sci-fi flick on the rat race, nothing more. However, it struck a nerve at the heart of many a pleb who was searching for their own personal, delineated meaning when batteries, the government and Metallica desired nothing more than to suck your proverbial out of a black Napster hole .
 Movies have a way of doing that. Since the inception of sci-fi and fantasy into our culture and way of life, people have desired to make a chosen fantasy, their present reality. Nowadays, we have Facebook, Twitter & '2nd Life' in which you can hide behind a veritable non-vilifying cyber-pseudonym. But does that mean that we aren't who we are? Flesh and blood, breath and bone, sensory perception fallible fools who live to laugh, love, cry and hurt? We all take a dump at some stage after a good meal, but is your life dictated by which way the dunny paper lays sunny-side up or under the Chico roll? They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and that in itself is only 'skin deep'. Try as we might to change our present circumstances, (financial, academic,



On A Mission From God

emotional, physical etc) our reality is in essence the 'sum' of what we are in the words we say, actions we use, battles we fight, and souls we love. The active ingredient in reality is love. Without it, there is no purpose for existence, no reason for living, no desire for change and no dream worth chasing. Reality is beyond the physical attainment of perfection, beyond the quest for knowledge and wisdom; reality is being in the arms of the One who loves you unconditionally, without prejudice, and will gladly lay their life down for you. This is perfect reality.
 When you are woken up at 3am by a child who wants a glass of water, you realise what reality is. It isn't in the essay two days late, partner who asked you to do some house chores on your one day off, or the song that was sung a little off during a monster session in the shower...yes, you can't sing and you have no talent...REALITY is found in the soul of a child who runs to you as soon as they lay eyes on you. I discovered REALITY after a myriad of personal and family catastrophes. I couldn't climb out of the hole which life had unscrupulously dug for me.... If you don't know me by now, you should. I was a gifted academic, musician, athlete and super freak. However, I could never reconcile the facts that I couldn't deal too well with the hand that life dealt

me. I never figured Life was an altruistic, egotistical, pimping, dealer of cards...
 My reality now, after MANY a year of searching, yearning, questioning and self-destruction, is that I have a true Father in heaven who gave me His only Son as a gift of sacrificial Love. My reality is my wife and children who lift me up when I am in excruciating physical and mental agony, waiting for multiple bouts of surgery. My reality is looking forward to the day when we, as humans made in God's image are united under the banner of Jesus Christ, in service and empathy. There is a reason why these 3rd World superstars of football turn their eyes toward heaven today, kiss the sky, and thank the Almighty for that goal; or as a 'keeper, save the un-saveable.
 I still (begrudgingly I must admit), remember the days when a cursory kick in the park was a wonderful thing; this bliss soon turned into a full-time career with massive crowds chanting and cheering your name in joy, erstwhile a 5 minute spell later, desiring your head on a silver platter, spitting and swearing that they would use my insides as their next meal. As this new season begins, and you pay for membership, and take yourself or your family to a game wondering if these new Gen players are on horse gear, calf steroids or processed protein shakes, ask yourself, "What the hell is MY reality?" Am I supporting a self-absorbed, decrepit club, a flag of symbolic crap, an ideology of sporting rape; or am I really supporting an institution which looks after ME, loves me, and desires MY well-being?

CLUB?
 Last time I checked, a CLUB was used to smash someone over a head in order to dull senses and gratify certain lusts.

AGAINST ALL ODDS	
A-League Title 2013/14	
Brisbane Roar	5.00
West Sydney Wanderers	5.50
Central Coast Mariners	5.50
Melbourne Victory	6.00
Sydney FC	8.50
Adelaide United	12.00
Perth Glory	15.00
Melbourne Heart	15.00
Wellington Phoenix	21.00
Newcastle Jets	26.00



In the dying seconds of the VPL Grand Final, Northcote defenders, Michael Eager, Nick Tzoulis and Kristian Konstantinidis swarm around the ball as Steve Hatzikostas tries to poke it past them
 Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

them in that regard.
 Whilst on referees, back to the Jets game. Interesting to watch match official Shaun Evans award a fairly soft free-kick to goalkeeper Mark Birighitti when he dropped a corner-kick he was trying to claim as his opponent challenged with a

header. Just a week earlier Evans allowed Peter Gavalas to be bundled into the back of the net and let the goal stand. Consistency - it's not just the way a substance holds together.

Sydney FC quickly fell apart without Alessandro Del Piero against Brisbane Roar. Up against defenders who didn't fall over when he walked at them in the box, his early departure after injury saw his left bereft of any ideas in attack. Whilst the Roar were impressive, the manner in which Sydney succumbed without their talisman must be a concern.

Melbourne Heart have never had a lead they couldn't throw away, and they had to share points with the Mariners after looking to have the defending champs beaten at 2-0 in the second half. Harry Kewell missed the game with whiplash he picked up courtesy of Adrian Leijer (sounds kinky) the previous week.

Wellington are showing positive signs this season that Ernie Mer-

rick may be able to shake off the "much maligned" tag placed on him by numerous critics. The 1-1 draw at Wanderland with the Wanderers also gave us a few gems of play from Carlos Hernandez, surely an inspiration for many park footballers who may be carrying an extra kilo or two.

If they could squeeze any more Aussie-Croats on Thursday FC last week they would had to have renamed it HNK Thursday. If it was on the main SBS channel and not SBS2, it would probably already be called NK Četvrtak.

Finally, congratulations to all at Northcote City on their epic 3-2 win over a gallant Bentleigh Greens in the 2013 VPL Grand Final. A club full of passionate, hard working people who have shown the value of stability in maintaining a close-knit playing group, ably led by coach Goran Lozanovski. Well done the mighty Hercules.



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Australia's connection with the Favelas



Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

As recently as late August and September, there were three Melbourne football teams touring and competing in one of the hotbed cities of world football, Rio de Janeiro.

A combined Australian Somali Football Association and Football Federation Victoria select under-18 team of new Australian-African refugee youths representing the 'Horn of Africa', an under-16 grassroots FFV South division club and a more popular team from another football code.

To be precise, they are Unite FC, Dandenong Warriors FC and Richmond Tigers of the AFL visiting the sun-blessed Brazilian city.

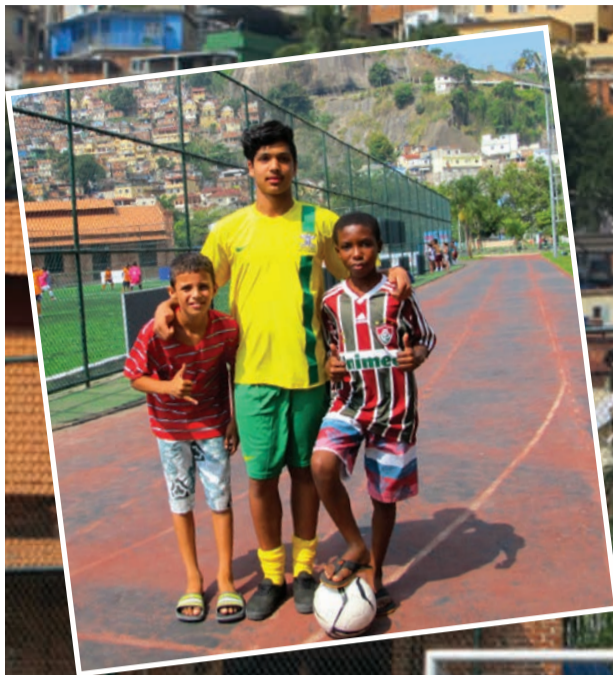
And part of the stay in Rio is to visit the renowned 'favelas'. These outskirt squalor hills often neglected by the mainstream media and general perceptions of neglect and infamy are the breeding ground for generations upon generations of upcoming football talent.

As former national boss Holger Osieck and the Socceroos received an annihilating six-nil drubbing in Brazilia, three Australian delegations ensured that Australia can offer, in contrast to the current climate, a degree of prosperity in the forging of sporting development and cultural relations between Brazil and Australia.

In the local Portuguese or to be precise, in 'Carioca' terminology, the 'favelas' are named simply as 'comunidades' or communities. The friendliness described and highlighted by all three visiting Australian teams are signs of life-long memories of an experience in sharing the values of goodwill through sport.

Dandenong Warriors, based in Dandenong North with a strong African heritage amongst its ranks is backed by club director and coach Zane Bowen. Having competed in several international youth tournaments over the last few years across Australia and South-east Asia, and winning on one occasion in Bangkok, the trip to Brazil marked not only an opportunity to exchange cultural values but was also a first to compete in the Zico 10 'Copa da Amizade'.

Competing against Brazil's vast number of top professional clubs' youth sides including Fluminense, Flamengo, Vasco da Gama, Botafogo to name a few alongside top-flight J-League clubs' youth sides travelling from Japan as well were competitive, tough, a "reality-check" as a few of the Australian



Boys from Brazil: (Inset) Joel Bowen with two local boys barracking for Dandenong Warriors during their Rio visit. Photo: GLOBO ESPORTE

delegation admitted as Dandenong lost its three group stage matches.

Competing at Zico's very own stadium complex at the 'Vila Olímpica' or the Olympic Village in the Rio suburb of Gamboa, the youth side also visited Morro dos Prazeres in the 'favela' of Santa Teresa during the stay.

The current crop of selected representatives of Brazil's national youth sides competing in their respective clubs as past notable names such as Nilmar and Adriano have played on these grounds.

Drawn against local sides Providencia and Nova Holanda and defeating them, the young Melbourne boys highlighted the spirit and openness of the locals with the experience itself of mixing it up on the pitch in an atmosphere of raw, passionate football. The lessons learned were for all to reap, and improve.

With the tournament broadcast on free-to-air television, such a once-in-a-lifetime moment for Dandenong Warriors FC will be repeated next year. Organisers of the tournament had initiated talks during the Great Wall of China Cup with

the unique invite for the club to represent as the maiden Australian club to compete in the Copa da Amizade or Friendship Cup inaugurated by the legendary Zico, in what was its 16th edition.

As for Unite FC, based with the assistance of FFV's Community Engagement Officer Ahmed Dini alongside the backing of several corporate sponsorship, their trip in early August was also highlighted with matches against youth sides of top 'Carioca' clubs Fluminense and Flamengo.

Zico's football school also played a part in the engagement as Unite FC consist of some of the best Under 18 players from the Victorian Horn of Africa refugee communities including Somali, Eritrean, Ethiopian, South Sudanese, Kenyan and Oromo-Australian nationalities. In addition this years touring party boasted two Indigenous players from Victoria.

The Unite FC squad selected players from across Football Federation Victoria leagues and live in the council areas of Moonee Valley, Banyule, Hume, Wyndham and Darebin of Melbourne.

Local media paid particular attention to Dandenong Warriors FC's presence with coverage on mainstream newspapers, television and internet websites. All a sign of the cultural value and social significance of football, a contrast to the struggles and immense efforts here at home.

On the contrary, a positive gesture was initiated by nine Richmond Tigers players alongside two Indigenous musicians and the help of a non-government organisation developed by RMIT University and Brazil's Institute for innovation and social development. Such was the publicity stunt with profile players in the AFL sends a message of maturity and of a positive role model example. To be able to use a different football code through sport and look at an outer perspective of shaping children's lives in often some of the most volatile environments is very pleasing to see.

With Rio de Janeiro and Brazil in the limelight these next three to four years with the recent FIFA Confederations Cup held across the length and width of the Portu-

guese-speaking nation, next year's World Cup catapults the ultimate deadline for our beautiful game. Stadiums are currently under mixed progress rates, with a few workers still claiming for bargaining agreements, payments and rights. Politicians ranging from President Dilma Rousseff implying order and calm despite the unrest on the streets. Former World Cup hero Romario, currently holding a Federal seat in the Senate has vehemently disagreed with numerous issues yet to be addressed including allegations of bribery.

The former great has pointed the finger at the lack of organisation with the stadia and infrastructure constructions, and questioning the general taxpayers funding of staging the FIFA World Cup and the IOC's Summer Olympics within the space of two years at the expense of allocating funds for education and health reforms. One note and explanation can attribute to a general consensus however; amongst Brazil social disparity and issues ongoing, it may well be suitable to address

that the general friendliness of its people, regard for a lifestyle of beach, sport and music shall entail one collective party atmosphere.

Authorities warn that despite the aforementioned issues of improvised organisation, the tournaments will be staged safely and in their familiar national buoyant spirit. Pressure will undoubtedly be mounted on Luiz Felipe Scolari's players to win the coveted trophy next July.

The 'favela' communities have successfully on many occasions through football and other sports broken down stigmas, resolved a dark past, united the divisions amongst its people, all indirectly involved through illicit activities and tragedies on the back of humble, hard-working class families surviving beneath every night fall. Whether it is on the hills, on the dance floor, an evangelical church or on a football field, the rhythm on the foot and the heartbeat of the 'Carioca' is contagious.

Football is more than a game, in fact the most important of all unimportant facets of Brazil's society.

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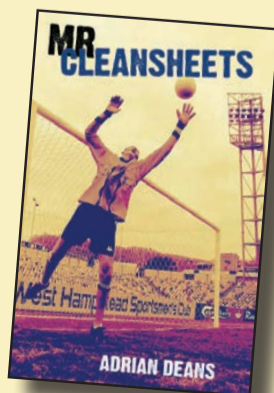
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Arsenal 1 Borussia Dortmund 2
Borussia Dortmund ended Arsenal's unbeaten start to the UEFA Champions League with a 2-1 win at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsene Wenger, who celebrated his 64th birthday on Tuesday, saw his Arsenal side start slowly and the Premier League leaders were quickly punished when Henrikh Mkhitaryan shot past Wojciech Szczesny.

Marseille 1 Napoli 2
Napoli kept their hopes of qualification for the UEFA Champions League knock-out stages intact with a 2-1 win at Marseille.

The Italian side headed into the game looking to bounce back from their 2-0 defeat to Arsenal in the previous round of Group F.

Schalke 0 Chelsea 3
Fernando Torres marked his 100th start for Chelsea by scoring twice in a 3-0 UEFA Champions League win at Schalke.

The Spain striker opened the scoring with an early header and was on target again in the second half to take his tally to five goals in his last five Champions League games.

And Eden Hazard put the icing on the cake with a third goal three minutes from time as Schalke pressed forward.

Milan 1 Barcelona 1
Milan made it three games unbeaten against Barcelona at San Siro with a 1-1 draw in UEFA Champions League Group H.

The hosts took the lead early in the match with a well-worked move that saw Kaka set-up his Brazilian team-mate Robinho to slot the ball into the bottom corner.

Barca hauled themselves level midway through the first half as Lionel Messi struck his sixth goal against Milan in the Champions League. The Argentine collected a pass from Andres Iniesta and fired home on his first start since overcoming a thigh injury.

Ibra bags four as big guns take control



Zlatan Ibrahimovic was on song for Paris St Germain in the 5-0 demolition of Anderlecht.

Porto 0 Zenit St Petersburg 1
Zenit St Petersburg left it late as they scraped a 1-0 UEFA Champions League victory at 10-man Porto on Tuesday.

Aleksandr Kerzhakov's 86th-minute header was enough for the visitors, who laboured to take advantage of Porto playing much of the game a man down.

Celtic 2 Ajax 1
Goals either side of half-time from James Forrest and Beram Kayal gave Celtic a 2-1 UEFA Champions League win over Ajax on Tuesday. Having fallen to Group H defeats against Milan and Barcelona, triumph over the Eredivisie outfit represents a huge boost to the Scottish champions' European hopes.

Manchester United 1 Real Sociedad 0
Manchester United handed manager David Moyes a timely boost with a deserved 1-0 UEFA Champions League victory over Real Sociedad. The decisive moment came in the second minute via Inigo Martinez's own goal after the impressive Wayne Rooney had struck the post.

Bayern Munich 5 Viktoria Plzen 0

Bayern Munich maintained their 100 per cent record in UEFA Champions League Group D by thrashing Viktoria Plzen 5-0 at the Allianz Arena.

Franck Ribery scored twice to take his tally to three goals in his last two Champions League games as the European champions sent out another message of intent.

Pep Guardiola's side dominated from start to finish, with David Alaba, Bastian Schweinsteiger and Mario Gotze also on target as Czech champions Plzen were totally outclassed.

Benfica 1 Olympiacos 1

Oscar Cardozo rescued a late point for Benfica in a rain-soaked 1-1 UEFA Champions League draw against Olympiacos.

Alejandro Dominguez put the visitors ahead after 29 minutes, before a torrential downpour and the resulting water-logged pitch killed the pace of the game in the second period.

However, with hope fading for the Portuguese side, Cardozo was in the right place at the right time to prod home from close range seven minutes from time.

Bayer Leverkusen 4 Shakhtar Donetsk 0

Stefan Kiessling's brace helped rampant Bayer Leverkusen to an impressive 4-0 UEFA Champions League Group A win at home to Shakhtar Donetsk.

Kiessling had been at the centre of controversy with a 'ghost goal' in his side's Bundesliga win over Hoffenheim last week, but there was no doubt about his strikes on Wednesday as he headed the Germans in front midway through the first half, before Simon Rolfes slotted home from the spot just after the break.

Sidney Sam added a third with a well-taken finish, before Kiessling poked home his second of the night with 18 minutes left to confirm the win.

CSKA Moscow 1 Manchester City 2

Sergio Aguero scored twice as Manchester City came from behind to win 2-1 at CSKA Moscow in UEFA Champions League Group D.

Former Manchester United midfielder Zoran Tomic put CSKA ahead in the first half, but Aguero levelled less than two minutes later.

And the Argentina striker added a second before half-time on a diffi-

cult pitch at the Arena Khimki to put City back on track to qualify for the knockout stages following their home defeat to Bayern Munich last time out.

Anderlecht 0-5 Paris Saint-Germain

Zlatan Ibrahimovic insisted Paris Saint-Germain can win the UEFA Champions League after their impressive 5-0 victory over Anderlecht.

The Sweden international struck four times on Wednesday to become the 10th player to score four goals in a single match in the competition.

He opened his account in the 17th minute after neat work from Gregory van der Wiel, and the pair combined again for his second midway through the half.

Ibrahimovic netted his hat-trick with a stunning 30-yard strike that flew into the top corner with Anderlecht goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski given no chance before adding a fourth after the break, with Edinson Cavani also on target.

Real Madrid 2-1 Juventus

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti insisted the result was paramount following their 2-1 win over Juventus in the UEFA Champions League.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for the hosts in the first half, either side of Fernando Llorente's equaliser, before Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini was shown a straight red card for an alleged elbow on Madrid's goalscorer two minutes into the second half.

Ancelotti's side sit top of Group B with a perfect record of nine points from three matches and a five-point lead over second-placed Galatasaray.

The Italian admitted his side's performance was not their best, but felt the win was the most important thing.

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Manchester United	3	2	1	0	6	3	+37
2 Bayer Leverkusen	3	2	0	1	8	5	+36
3 Shakhtar Donetsk	3	1	1	1	3	5	-24
4 Real Sociedad	3	0	0	3	1	5	-40
Manchester United 1-0 Real Sociedad							
Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 Shakhtar Donetsk							

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Real Madrid	3	3	0	0	12	2	+109
2 Galatasaray	3	1	1	1	6	9	-34
3 Juventus	3	0	2	1	4	5	-12
4 København	3	0	1	2	2	8	-61
Galatasaray 3-1 København							
Real Madrid 2-1 Juventus							

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 PSG	3	3	0	0	12	1	+119
2 Olympiakos	3	1	1	1	5	5	+04
3 Benfica	3	1	1	1	3	4	-14
4 Anderlecht	3	0	0	3	0	10	-100
Benfica 1-1 Olympiakos Piraeus							
Anderlecht 0-5 PSG							

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Bayern München	3	3	0	0	11	1	+109
2 Manchester City	3	2	0	1	6	4	+26
3 CSKA Moskva	3	1	0	2	4	7	-33
4 Viktoria Plzen	3	0	0	3	2	11	-90
CSKA Moskva 1-2 Manchester City							
Bayern München 5-0 Viktoria Plzen							

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Chelsea	3	2	0	1	8	2	+66
2 Schalke 04	3	2	0	1	4	3	+16
3 Basel	3	1	1	1	3	3	+04
4 Steaua Bucuresti	3	0	1	2	1	8	-71
Steaua Bucuresti 1 - 1 Basel							
Schalke 04 0 - 3 Chelsea							

Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Borussia Dortmund	3	2	0	1	6	3	+36
2 Arsenal	3	2	0	1	5	3	+26
3 Napoli	3	2	0	1	4	4	+06
4 Olympique Mars...	3	0	0	3	2	7	-50
Arsenal 1 - 2 Borussia Dortmund							
Olympique Mars... 1 - 2 Napoli							

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Atlético Madrid	3	3	0	0	8	2	+69
2 Zenit	3	1	1	1	2	3	-14
3 Porto	3	1	0	2	2	3	-13
4 Austria Wien	3	0	1	2	0	4	-41
Porto 0 - 1 Zenit							
Austria Wien 0 - 3 Atlético Madrid							

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Barcelona	3	2	1	0	6	1	+57
2 Milan	3	1	2	0	4	2	+25
3 Celtic	3	1	0	2	2	4	-23
4 Ajax	3	0	1	2	2	7	-51
Celtic 2 - 1 Ajax							
Milan 1 - 1 Barcelona							

Tassie and Victorian women to play for Bass Strait Cup

By Walter Pless

The Tasmanian women's squad of 16 players to meet the Victorian Women's Premier League All-Stars at KGV Park, Glenorchy, on Sunday, 27 October 2013, at 1pm, has been announced.

The teams will be playing for the Bass Strait Cup.

The Tasmanians trained at Churchill Park in Launceston on the weekend and will train again at KGV Park on Thursday and on Saturday in sessions taken by Tasmania's new technical director, Spencer Prior.

The Tasmanian co-coaches are Michael Foote (Ulverstone) and Brent McKay (Taroona).

"We had a good intense session today [Sunday] and have put together a good young squad," said Michael Foote.

"I'm looking forward to the game against an opposition that is unknown to us, but I believe we will be competitive and should provide a good account of ourselves."

Brent McKay said: "It was another good effort today and great for the Southern girls to travel up to the North who have to travel a lot just to play."

"I was happy with the intensity today and it's starting to come together, particularly integrating the players from both ends of the state."



Tasmanian star Ellie Gavalas controls the ball while under pressure from Georgia Foote in the recent North v South women's game in Tasmania. Photo by Walter Pless

"I'm excited about the game and the opportunity it presents to both the girls and women's football in Tasmania. "I hope everyone gets along to the game." The squad includes five players from the North and 11 from the South.

The Tasmanian squad of 16 is: Lisa Bremner (Taroona). Rani Carveretta (Olympia), Georgia Foote (Ulverstone), Lucy Foote (Ulverstone), Ellie Gavalas (NTC), Isabella Gee (NTC), Stacie Hutchinson (NTC), Hanna Manuela (Taroona), Louisa Marmion (NTC), Innocent Michael (NTC), Emma Norton (UTAS), Mady O'Brien (Olympia), Caitlin Storay (Launceston City), Amelia

Van Der Niet (Clarence), Kiara Walsh (Launceston City), Jessie Williams (NTC). [Train-on: Paige Ayton (NTC)].

The Victorian WPL All-Stars provisional squad is: Aneta Komijat (Altona City) Sky Jensen (Altona City) Christine Pfeiffer (Ashburton Women) Ingrid Philippe (Ashburton Women) Line Johansen (Box Hill United) Stacey Papadopoulos (Box Hill United) Padika Dade (Box Hill United) Alyssa Blewonski (Bulleen Lions) Federica Frew (Bulleen Lions) Claudia Fruscalzo (Bundoora United) Melissa Missalidis (Bundoora United) Tyla-Jay Vlainic (Bundoora United) Emily Thomas (Cairnlea) Tijen Hussein (Cairnlea) Alex Gummer (Casey Comets) Brittany Dudley-Smith (Casey Comets) Belinda Pannella (Heidelberg United) Erin Brennan (Heidelberg United) Leigh Gray (Heidelberg United) Diana Piculovski (Preston Lions) Elizabeth Eyar (Preston Lions) Christie Parton (Sandringham) Sienna Fogarty (Sandringham) Steph Tanti (Sandringham) Alex Cheal (South Melbourne Women) Morany Chek (South Melbourne Women) Natalie Martineau (South Melbourne Women)

Short Passes

SYDNEY FC BOSSCHAART AGREE TO PART WAYS

Sydney FC and centre half Pascal Bosschaart have mutually agreed to a termination of the Dutchman's contract.

The 33-year old has played 33 times for the Sky Blues, scoring one goal since joining the club in June 2011.

Injury blow for Westfield Matildas star Kyah Simon

Football Federation Australia can confirm that Westfield Matildas forward Kyah Simon has suffered a torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) in her right knee and is set to be out of the game for 12 months.

Simon suffered the injury just seconds after entering Sunday's 4-0 defeat against USA in San Antonio as a second-half substitute.

"It's obviously a disappointing setback," Simon said from the USA. "I'm grateful to have such an experienced support staff around me to already have my rehab and recovery process under way and I look forward to coming back stronger than before."

"Every athlete has their setbacks,

However a succession of injuries has limited the former Feyenoord defender to just six appearances in the past 19 months and both parties have agreed to part company. "Pascal has been a model professional throughout his time with Sydney FC and is a firm favourite with the Members and fans," said Head Coach Frank Farina. "He has been unfortunate with injury during his time at the club but leaves with our blessing and the best wishes of coaches, players and staff."

this one has been an unlucky one for me. My main focus for the next 12 months is my rehab, doing as much as I can within the restraints and returning for the W-League in 2014 and the World Cup in the 2015.

The 22-year-old has enjoyed a stellar year at club level, scoring and being named player of the match in last year's Westfield W-League Grand Final win for Sydney FC. More recently Simon was one of just four Aussies featuring in this year's inaugural season of the full-professional National Women's Soccer League in the US, where she played for Boston Breakers. Simon was also one of several major signings by Western Sydney Wanderers for the Westfield W-League which commences next month.



Barclays Premier League

Andrew Bishara

Southampton's Rise thanks to Unknown Argentine

Many Southampton fans were bemused at the decision last season to sack Nigel Atkins during a decent run, which saw the Saints climb out of the relegation zone.

His replacement was an unknown Argentinian by the name of Mauricio Pochettino, who's only stint as a manager was a three-year run at La Liga club Espanyol.

Criticism was levelled at Saint executive chairman, Nicola Cortese, for bringing in Pochettino, a man who didn't even speak proper English. Nine months on, how everyone is eating in their words.

There have been victories over Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, and a tough 1-1 draw at Manchester United. The Saints now sit in fifth position, and while it early days yet, there is a feeling at Southampton could have a special season.

Summer signings, Pablo Osvaldo, Victor Wanyama, Dejan Lovren and academy players, James Ward-Prowse, Calum Chambers and Luke Shaw have contributed significantly to the team's progression this season.

Pochettino has brought the perfect balancing act to the Saints, tightening up a loose defence, while remaining focused on attacking teams to actually go the win.

This was best defined in their performance 2-0 win over Crystal Palace, where Pochettino explained his successful set-up "Our set-up is very clear," said Pochettino.



The Saints continue to punch above their weight and pulled a rabbit out of the hat against Manchester United.

"We want to defend, keeping possession of the ball. We want to be as effective on the attack, to be as far away from our side of the pitch as possible.

"We also know we are running a certain risk when we play that way because we might be giving the ball away, but it is our philosophy. We want to believe that we can succeed playing in that way."

The Saints once again showed its attitude against Manchester United. Yes, this isn't the Manchester of old, but Southampton dominated large portions of the

The Saints once again showed its attitude against Manchester United. Yes, this isn't the Manchester of old, but Southampton dominated large portions of the match...

match, constantly putting pressure on United, while keeping their defensive structure.

Pochettino made it clear, in one of his few English-speaking conferences, that is it all part of club's long plan to establish itself with its own style.

"I am the manager. I just try to establish how I want the team to play, our philosophy of how we play football, and that is my role within the team, nothing else," said Pochettino.

"Southampton don't play the same way as they did under Adkins under Pochettino.

"It's also clear that the club has a certain philosophy and the club will try to find a manager to try to execute that philosophy in the way that the club wants, so that's why I am here."

The players also enjoy the philosophy. Adam Lallana, the captain, has said that Pochettino may manage one of Europe's big clubs one day.

"Ever since the new gaffer came in, he's taken us to the next level with some additions through the spine of the team," said Lallana.


"He's just added to the talent we already have here.

"I can see him at a place like Old Trafford one day," he said. "He is that good."

Pochettino is keeping himself and his long-term ambitions grounded at the moment. It is all part of his

ENGLAND

EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Arsenal	8	6	1	1	18	9	+9	19	W D W W W
2 Chelsea	8	5	2	1	14	5	+9	17	W W D W L
3 Liverpool	8	5	2	1	13	7	+6	17	D W W L D
4 Manchester City	8	5	1	2	20	9	+11	16	W W L W D
5 Tottenham Hotspur	8	5	1	2	8	5	+3	16	W L D W W
6 Southampton	8	4	3	1	8	3	+5	15	D W W W D
7 Everton	8	4	3	1	12	10	+2	15	W L W W W
8 Manchester United	8	3	2	3	11	10	+1	11	D W L L W
9 Hull City	8	3	2	3	7	9	-2	11	L D W W D
10 Newcastle United	8	3	2	3	11	14	-3	11	D W L L W
11 Swansea City	8	3	1	4	12	11	+1	10	W L L W D
12 West Bromwich ...	8	2	4	2	7	6	+1	10	D D W W D
13 Aston Villa	8	3	1	4	9	10	-1	10	L D W W L
14 Fulham	8	3	1	4	9	10	-1	10	W W L L D
15 West Ham United	8	2	2	4	8	8	+0	8	L W L L D
16 Stoke City	8	2	2	4	4	7	-3	8	D L L L D
17 Cardiff City	8	2	2	4	8	13	-5	8	L L W L D
18 Norwich City	8	2	1	5	6	13	-7	7	L L W L L
19 Crystal Palace	8	1	0	7	6	17	-11	3	L L L L L
20 Sunderland	8	0	1	7	5	20	-15	1	L L L L L

attitude and it has trickled down to the players.

"My ambition is always short term," he said. "I am very happy with Southampton. I don't see myself anywhere else."

EPL Preview It's second versus fourth this weekend, as Manchester City travel to Stamford Bridge to take on Chelsea.

This will prove a fascinating clash with two teams tipped for the title, but still coming to terms with the news bosses in charge. Well, one new boss and one returning leg-end.

Jose Mourinho's return has not been the roaring success many predicted it would be. There was perception that things would just "kick off" for Chelsea and they would embark on one of those dominant Mourinho campaigns (think Chelsea 2004-05, Inter Milan 2009-10 and Real Madrid 2011-12).

There is a lot more work to be done at Stamford Bridge. The defence needs some fine-tuning, while the attacking structure needs to be sort. There is no doubting that Chelsea has one of the best attacking squads in the world.

The problem for Mourinho is to

find the right balance, between the likes of Edin Hazard, Juan Mata, Oscar, Willian, Andre Schurrle and Kevin De Bruyne for the attacking trio.

So too, the lone striker role is proving difficult, with the position being shuffled between Samuel Eto'o, Fernando Torres and Demba Ba. The 'Special One' has shown that he is not certain on whom he believes is best fit to lead the line.

City, on the other hand, has a clear starting eleven already on the table. Manuel Pellegrini has wasted no time in getting his team to play the way he wants, but also ensuring that the players establish chemistry between each other.

They though haven't had the smoothest of starts to the season. For all its attacking ambition (they lead the charts with 20 goals in eight games), they have lapses in the back, which has costed them points, especially on the road.

Two 3-2 losses to Cardiff City and Aston Villa highlighted issues that Pellegrini's attacking philosophy might not work on the road.

However, that was put to bed with a 3-1 win over West Ham at Upton Park. Two goals by Sergio Ague-ro, who is returning to the form of two years ago, and one by David Silva secured the win.

Following the game, Pellegrini was adamant that City would not change its philosophy when it heads to Stamford Bridge.

"Today we scored three. We continue to try and be an offensive team. I think that this team should always play attacking," said Pel-ligrini.

"We were absolutely sure the way we were playing away that we would win.

"Today was very important. Before we started, Chelsea and Arsenal won their games. We must be at maximum, three points away from the leader," he said.

"Next game we play Chelsea away to recover the points. It is never a problem to have good players on the bench."

Both teams though will surely rotate players around with Champions League clashes midweek.

Manchester City travel to Moscow to face CSKA Moscow on Wednesday (Thursday morning our time), knowing that a couple of wins would secure its passage out of the group stage.

While Chelsea have to travel to Gelsenkirchen, to play German club Schalke 04, before the return leg at Stamford Bridge two weeks later.

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Hodgson's selection headaches



London Eye

Eddie Gray

A nation rejoiced on Tuesday after England claimed their place at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

A 2-0 win over Poland, with goals from Wayne Rooney and captain Steven Gerrard, sent the Three Lions top of their qualification group and through to the most prestigious tournament in world football.

Manager Roy Hodgson described the achievement as his "proudest moment" and now the celebrations have calmed it is time to start preparing for what lies ahead in Brazil.

As with all hopes surrounding England at an international tournament there is an expectation they will go on to lift the trophy.

Despite not even reaching the final of the World Cup since they won the tournament in 1966, there is always a somewhat arrogant presumption - no matter what their form going in - that England stand an excellent chance of winning the competition.

But although there are still many who adamantly insist Hodgson's men are one of the favourites, there has largely been a more measured approach to managing expectations than there has been ever before.

New FA chairman Greg Dyke admitted the chances of the country triumphing were "remote" and he also added: "I don't think anyone realistically thinks we are going to win the World Cup in Brazil."

But despite a harsh realism being delivered, come tournament time Hodgson will only be fielding a team intent on claiming the final prize, no matter what others deem to be a realistic prospect.

At this early stage it would be a tricky proposition for Hodgson to select a 23-man squad.

A solid core has developed since he took but there are still seats on the plane which could be filled by a variety of individuals.

The likes of Ravel Morrison and Ross Barkley will be hoping to keep their early season form going and get one of the 'wildcard' picks to the tournament that we saw happen with Theo Walcott in 2006.

Men who have recently dropped out of contention, like previous stalwarts Scott Parker and Gareth Barry, will be striving to get back into the managers thoughts but with an impetuous being placed on youth that ship may have sailed.

You also have candidates who are currently completely out of contention.

Although retired from international football there is not a better English centre back at this present moment than John Terry. His position is one of the weakest areas in the national team and there is a possibility he



Decisions, decisions: 20 years after taking the Swiss to USA 1994, Roy Hodgson will taste World Cup football again in '14.

could be tempted back, especially as it would be his last chance to win the World Cup and that lure may just be too great.

Despite the make-up of the 23-man squad being hard to distinguish, the starting eleven is far more clear-cut and if Hodgson had to pick a team now for the first group game he would only have three major personnel decisions to make: at left back, on the right wing and in centre midfield, presuming everyone was available for selection.

The rest of the side picks itself.

Joe Hart will be the number one keeper; Glen Johnson, Phil Jagielka and Gary Cahill will make up three of a four man defence and in the middle of midfield will be Gerrard. Further up the field Rooney is almost guaranteed to begin as the 'number ten' with Danny Welbeck on the left and the impressive Daniel Sturridge likely to be given the starting spot up top.

This first leaves a decision to be made at left back. Leighton Baines staked his claim for the starting berth after two highly influential

performances in the most recent qualifiers - stepping in for Ashley Cole - and the attacking threat he brings makes him a strong contender. But Cole has been the world's premier left sided defender for many years now and, although he may have lost some of his own attacking prowess, if England are to face up to the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo then the Chelsea man is the player you would want up against them; therefore he just gets the nod.

On the right Andros Townsend has shone since his surprise inclusion against Montenegro and after a positive start to the year with Tottenham, following an impressive spell on loan at QPR last term, he has firmly put his name into the hat. His main rival comes from across North London in the shape of Theo Walcott. The Arsenal man has seen off competition from Townsend's team-mate Aaron Lennon in the past and has largely made the position his own, only losing it due to injury. If you were picking a side now you would probably just favour Walcott due to his his sheer pace forcing defences to drop deep allowing more space in creative areas, but either way England look strong in that position.

Finally - and perhaps most critically - is the decision who to play in centre midfield alongside Gerrard, with Frank Lampard, Jack Wilshere and Michael Carrick the three men in contention. The former has the most international experience and is the most likely to grab you

an important goal, Wilshere has something special about him and can glide past defenders despite not being blessed with electric pace and Carrick possesses the ability to keep the ball and remain composed even in the most frantic situations, something England severely struggle with when the pressure is on.

As is the case with most important decisions they are often the hardest and this is no different. Each player has something the other doesn't and many will criticise whoever Hodgson elects to go with. On reflection Wilshere is probably the best bet if England are to progress into the latter stages of the tournament as he has a creative streak that the others do not have in the final third. His eye for a defence splitting pass and his talent to change tempo is also something Hodgson's men will desperately need if they are to break down some of the most miserly defences in the world.

So a team of Hart, Johnson, Cahill, Jagielka, Cole, Gerrard, Wilshere, Walcott, Rooney, Welbeck and Sturridge (from right to left) in a 4-2-3-1 formation looks a strong one and perhaps is good enough to reach the crunch stages of the World Cup.

It may not be strong enough to win it, but then again it could be. And with expectations not too high for the first time in years it may be the exact conditions England need to thrive in Brazil next summer.



Serie A
Luca Cetta

Pjanic's magical week

Miralem Pjanic starred as Roma continued their magnificent start the new Serie A season, grabbing a brace in the win over Napoli.

Before even taking charge of a competitive fixture at new club Roma, Rudi Garcia had his mid-field trio in mind. "At the start of the summer I knew a midfield with Daniele De Rossi, Kevin Strootman and Miralem Pjanic would be very strong. That area is the heart of my football."

In those summer months, as Roma fans revolted against what they perceived a lack of direction at the Giallorossi, the new boss was adamant Pjanic would be crucial. "This Pjanic here is the one I remembered from Lyon." That Pjanic was one Roma forked out €11m for in preparation for the 2011-12 season - the first under new American owners, the start of a new chapter. He remains the only player purchased that summer still in the capital.

A player of great technique, he left native Bosnia and Herzegovina at the age of 14 chasing his dream. That dream took Pjanic to France, where he grew up with Metz. His only professional season at the club ended in their relegation from the



Miralem scores a double in the derby for Roma

top flight, but landed Pjanic a July 2008 switch to Lyon. He rejected offers from a host of Europe's biggest clubs to remain in France. At the Stade Gerland he continued to impress.

In 2008, the 18-year-old Pjanic also made his national team debut. These days a regular, Pjanic has represented the country born out of the Yugoslav crisis of the early 1990s through their greatest era. Twice Bosnia came within a whisker of qualifying for a major tournament. Twice they were stopped in playoffs by Portugal, missing trips to South Africa 2010 and Euro 2012.

It was to be third time lucky. Bosnia, with Pjanic in the side, secured the win required against Lithuania to finish top of their group and qualify for Brazil 2014. "What happened in my country is a dream come true," exclaimed Pjanic.

Roma too, are experiencing a dream run. Pjanic and a host of other returned to the capital following

international duty for the top of the table clash with Napoli. The Giallorossi went in two points ahead, but still with some doubters. Napoli would represent a real test, it was supposed. Not that their early run was easy. Two of their seven wins came against bitter rivals Lazio, plus Inter. Verona are in the top five and were also defeated. To add to the spectacle, Diego Maradona was in the stands, the Argentine maestro in Italy to promote a DVD release on his life.

Within half an hour of a delicately poised contest, Francesco Totti limped off injured. 'No Totti, no party', right? Try 'no Totti, no worry'. In his stead the Lupi could rely on Pjanic. "Miralem Pjanic can also take free kicks like Juninho Pernambucano, though this one was a little different," said his boss afterwards. The Bosnian may be an excellent free kick taker, but the presence of Totti shadows that. Now was his chance. Paolo Can-

ITALY Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Roma	8	8	0	0	22	6	+21	24	W W W W W
2 Napoli	8	6	1	1	18	6	+12	19	L W W D W
3 Juventus	8	6	1	1	16	10	+6	19	L W W W W
4 Hellas Verona	8	5	1	2	16	12	+4	16	W W W D L
5 Internazionale	8	4	3	1	19	9	+10	15	D L D W W
6 Fiorentina	8	4	3	1	17	10	+7	15	W D D L W
7 Atalanta	8	4	0	4	11	11	+0	12	W W W L L
8 Milan	8	3	2	3	14	13	+1	11	W L W D L
9 Lazio	8	3	2	3	12	12	+0	11	L D D W L
10 Torino	8	2	4	2	13	13	+0	10	D D L D W
11 Udinese	8	3	1	4	9	9	+0	10	L W L W L
12 Cagliari	8	2	4	2	10	12	-2	10	W L D D D
13 Parma	8	2	3	3	13	15	-2	9	L W D W D
14 Livorno	8	2	2	4	9	12	-3	8	L L L D D
15 Genoa	8	2	2	4	8	12	-4	8	W L L L D
16 Sampdoria	8	1	3	4	8	14	-6	6	W D L L D
17 Catania	8	1	2	5	6	13	-7	5	L D W L D
18 Sassuolo	8	1	2	5	7	22	-15	5	W L D D L
19 Chievo	8	1	1	6	6	15	-9	4	L L L L W
20 Bologna	8	0	3	5	9	22	-13	3	L L L L L

navaro had only been on the field for 120 seconds when he bowled Gervinho over. Up stepped Pjanic, curling a magnificent free kick past the despairing Pepe Reina.

When Cannavaro was shown a second yellow after the interval for bringing down Marco Borriello inside the penalty area - although replays suggest Borriello was just as guilty of holding - Pjanic again took responsibility and emphatically dispatched the spot-kick. Those were his second and third goals of the season, his first a magnificent chipped effort from 20 meters against Verona.

"It is a magic moment for me and I hope to continue like this," Pjanic noted after the game. "Last season I trained well, yet I struggled to find playing time at the start. Every Coach has his vision and in the end I worked hard to earn my space."

The 2-0 wins puts Roma in lofty territory. Only three times has a side won all of their opening eight

matches, Juventus in 1930-31, 1985-86 and 2005-06. Each time they claimed the Scudetto. "Tonight Totti's Roma matched Michel Platini's Juventus under the gaze of Diego Maradona. I am very proud to have contributed to that," beamed Garcia.

Roma's issues the past two terms have also stemmed from a lack of defensive cohesion and ability. Yet after win number eight, Roma have the best attack and defence in Serie A. Only once has Morgan De Sanctis been breached. The goalkeeper, discarded by Napoli at the end of last season, has gone 501 minutes without conceding. Can he reach the all-time Serie A record? There's still some way to go. Sebastiano Rossi set the mark in 1993-94 at 929 minutes.

Totti's injury means he is likely to miss Roma's trip to Udinese this weekend. There they will attempt to match the 2005-06 Juventus and win a ninth successive game. While

they'll miss their talisman, Pjanic showed last Friday he also has the ability to dazzle.

Looking ahead: Can Juve bounce back?

Two goals clear and seemingly cruising against Fiorentina last Sunday, Juventus could see three points in their sights. That was until they were hit by a devastating Viola spell. Giuseppe Rossi scored three of four goals netted inside 15 minutes which took Fiorentina from a two-goal deficit to 4-2 winners. It was their first home win over Juventus since 1998-99.

After tackling Real Madrid in the Champions League midweek, the Bianconeri will aim to get back on track domestically when they host Genoa. The Grifoni have picked up four points in Gian Piero Gasperini's two games in charge, but Juve need a victory to keep in touch with leaders Roma.

Latest Results

Next Match

Roma 2 - 0 Napoli	Sampdoria v Atalanta
Cagliari 2 - 1 Catania	Inter v Hellas Verona
Milan 1 - 0 Udinese	Napoli v Torino
Atalanta 2 - 1 Lazio	Bologna v Livorno
Fiorentina 4 - 2 Juventus	Catania v Sassuolo
Genoa 2 - 1 Chievo	Chievo v Fiorentina
Verona 3 - 2 Parma	Juventus v Milan
Livorno 1 - 2 Sampdoria	Parma v Genoa
Sassuolo 2 - 1 Bologna	Udinese v Roma
Torino 3 - 3 Inter	Lazio v Cagliari

One To Watch This Weekend...

Typical slow starters, Massimiliano Allegri's Milan are away at Parma. Having squeezed past Udinese, the Rossoneri will hope that victory was the start of a revival and that the trip to the Stadio Ennio Tardini can continue the momentum.



Viva Espana
Pepe Lopez

Barca and Atleti lose 100% records

In a weekend that saw both Barcelona FC and Atletico Madrid lose their 8 successive rounds of victories, Real Madrid were the clear winners. A 2-0 home win against Malaga FC enabled the Madridista's to close the gap between themselves and league leaders Barcelona to just 3 points, and 2 points from second placed Atletico Madrid.

Real Madrid's Argentine winger Angel Di Maria, opened the goal scoring just after the halftime break in front of 67,000 supporters at the Santiago Bernabeu. In more good news for Real Madrid, expensive new signing Gareth Bale returned from injury in the 76th minute, and deep into injury time, won a penalty kick for his side, which was converted by Ronaldo.

Goal scorer, Angel Di Maria was happy with the result, speaking after the match;



Lowly Osasuna hold Barcelona's Messi at bay to pick up a valuable point

"We played a great match, that's what the coach wanted. We tried to do everything as well as we could against a team that are in good form. We are doing things well and improving as a team. We are working hard every day and at half-time the coach said he was happy with the job that we were doing and that he knew we could win the game."

Barcelona travelled to the Basque Country to take on Osasuna, but were unable to break down the Osasuna resistance, and had to be satisfied with a 0-0 draw. Star player Leo Messi returned from injury and played the last 20 minutes of the match, but Messi's team mates, such as

new Brazilian signing Neymar were frustrated and harassed by his opponents to such extent that new Barcelona Paraguayan coach Gerardo Martino made a public appeal to referees to show some concern for the well-being of his squad;

"The referee again allowed defenders to kick Neymar unpunished. Sometimes they should pay more attention, especially without the ball." In regards to dropping the first points of the season, Martino said;

"I would be worried if I saw a setback, but I didn't. We normally win such games with the chances we create. I am happy with the performance. We deserved to

SPAIN La Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Barcelona	9	8	1	0	28	6	+22	25	D W W W W
2 Atletico Madrid	9	8	0	1	21	7	+14	24	L W W W W
3 Real Madrid	9	7	1	1	19	9	+10	22	W W L W W
4 Villarreal	9	5	2	2	15	9	+6	17	L W L W D
5 Getafe	9	5	1	3	14	11	+3	16	W W W W L
6 Athletic Club	9	5	1	3	15	13	+2	16	W D L W L
7 Espanyol	9	4	2	3	12	11	+1	14	W L L L W
8 Valencia	9	4	1	4	12	13	-1	13	L D W W W
9 Levante	9	3	4	2	9	14	-5	13	W L W D D
10 Elche	9	3	3	3	10	12	-2	12	W W W L L
11 Sevilla	9	2	4	3	15	16	-1	10	D W D W L
12 Real Sociedad	9	2	4	3	8	10	-2	10	W L D L D
13 Malaga	9	2	3	4	11	9	+2	9	L L D W D
14 Rayo Vallecano	9	3	0	6	7	21	-14	9	W W L L L
15 Real Betis	9	2	2	5	9	12	-3	8	L L W L D
16 Granada	9	2	2	5	10	10	-5	8	L L W L D
17 Real Valladolid	9	1	4	4	9	15	-6	7	D L D L L
18 Osasuna	9	2	1	6	6	13	-7	7	D W L L W
19 Celta de Vigo	9	1	3	5	8	13	-5	6	L L L L D
20 Almeria	9	0	3	6	11	20	-9	3	L L L L D

win and I am calm. I made the decision to let Messi play 20 minutes to find his rhythm for the next fixtures."

In some significance for Barca, the match against Osasuna marked a return of veteran 35 year old central defender Carles Puyol;

"I feel better every day. I want to contribute as much as I can, both on and off the pitch," the 35-year-old said. We're in good shape and we're fighting for the same objectives. I'm happy with the way I feel but not with the result. We had our chances and controlled the game. We lacked that final pass. Now we're thinking about the game on Tuesday [Champions League]."

The result in the final Saturday fixture of La Liga, as described by a match commentator, brought cheers from half of Madrid, and all of Barcelona. It was Atletico Madrid's 1-0 upset loss to Barcelona based Espanyol. In a tight contest, an own goal from Atletico and Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois gifted the 3 points to Real Espanyol, the blunder took place some 10 minutes into the second half. The Atleti goalkeeper, was already at full stretch, when he stretched some more in an attempt to clear a low cross, but his touch of the ball sent the ball in the opposite intended direction.

Atletico Madrid Coach Diego Simeone was philosophical about

the loss; "It doesn't hurt because it's part of the game. We have always said our goal is to go match by match. Today, we faced an adverse goal, but in the second half the team tried to draw in different ways and that was important. We didn't moan, but looked - maybe not too clearly - for a way to the goal. I think that the clearest chance was Diego Costa's, which could have taken us to equalise, but the effort was there. In the second half we had 30 minutes to try, but it was impossible. We just have to congratulate the rival and get ready for Tuesday's match - which is a difficult one as well."

Latest Results

Next Match

Real Madrid 2 - 0 Málaga	Vallecano v Real Valladolid
Valencia 1 - 2 Real Sociedad	Málaga v Celta Vigo
Osasuna 0 - 0 Barcelona	Barcelona v Real Madrid
Espanyol 1 - 0 At Madrid	Elche v Granada
Granada 0 - 2 Getafe	Levante v Espanyol
Almeria 0 - 1 Rayo Vallecano	Sevilla v Osasuna
Real Betis 1 - 2 Elche	Villarreal v Valencia
Real Valladolid 2 - 2 Sevilla	Real Sociedad v Almeria
Celta de Vigo 0 - 1 Levante	Atletico Madrid v Real Betis
Athletic Club 2 - 0 Villarreal	Getafe v Athletic Club

One To Watch This Weekend...

This Sunday morning at 3am Melbourne time, the first El Clasico of the new season will take place at the Camp Nou in Barcelona. Real Madrid will travel to Barca, knowing a win can get their team level on points with Barcelona at the top of La Liga. The match can be watched live on Fox Sports in Australia.

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CROATIA 1.HNL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Hajduk Split	13	8	3	2	21	8	+13	27	W D D W W
2 Dinamo Zagreb	13	8	3	2	18	8	+10	27	L W D W L
3 Rijeka	13	7	5	1	23	9	+14	26	W L D W W
4 Lokomotiva	13	8	2	3	24	14	+10	26	W L W W D
5 Split	13	5	4	4	14	13	+1	19	W D L W D
6 Istra 1961	13	5	2	6	16	19	-3	17	L W W L L
7 Slaven Koprivnica	13	3	3	7	15	18	-3	12	W W D L L
8 Zadar	13	3	3	7	10	21	-11	12	L D D L W
9 Hrvatski Drago...	13	1	4	8	9	18	-9	7	L L D L W
10 Osijek	13	2	1	10	8	30	-22	7	L D L L L

GERMANY Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	9	7	2	0	19	4	+15	23	W D W W W
2 Borussia Dortmund	9	7	1	1	22	7	+15	22	W L W D W
3 Bayer Leverkusen	9	7	1	1	20	9	+11	22	W D W W W
4 Hertha BSC	9	4	3	2	15	9	+6	15	W D W D L
5 Schalke 04	9	4	2	3	17	19	-2	14	W W D L W
6 Borussia M'gla...	9	4	1	4	19	14	+5	13	L W D W L
7 Hannover 96	9	4	1	4	11	12	-1	13	L D L W L
8 Stuttgart	9	3	3	3	19	13	+6	12	D D W D W
9 Wolfsburg	9	4	0	5	11	12	-1	12	W L L W L
10 Werder Bremen	9	3	3	3	9	12	-3	12	D D D W L
11 Hoffenheim	9	2	4	3	21	22	-1	10	L D D L W
12 Eintracht Fran...	9	2	4	3	12	14	-2	10	D D D D W
13 Augsburg	9	3	1	5	10	17	-7	10	L D L D L
14 Mainz 05	9	3	1	5	13	21	-8	10	L D L L L
15 Hamburger SV	9	2	3	4	20	22	-2	9	D W D L L
16 Nürnberg	9	0	6	3	10	18	-8	6	D L D D L
17 Freiburg	9	0	5	4	9	18	-9	5	D D L D L
18 Eintracht Brau...	9	1	1	7	7	21	-14	4	L W L L D

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Burnley	12	9	2	1	22	7	+15	29	W W W W W
2 Queens Park Ra...	11	8	3	0	14	4	+10	27	D W W W D
3 Leicester City	12	8	2	2	19	12	+7	26	W L W W D
4 Nottinghamham Forest	12	6	5	1	20	12	+8	23	D W D W D
5 Blackpool	12	6	5	1	14	9	+5	23	W D D D D
6 Reading	12	6	4	2	19	11	+8	22	W L D W W
7 Watford	12	6	3	3	24	14	+10	21	L W L W W
8 Derby County	12	5	3	4	24	20	+4	18	W W D L L
9 Leeds United	12	5	2	5	14	13	+1	17	W L W L L
10 AFC Bournemouth	12	5	2	5	19	25	-6	17	D W L L D
11 Blackburn Rovers	12	4	3	5	17	14	+3	15	L L W W D
12 Ipswich Town	12	4	3	5	18	16	+2	15	L D D W L
13 Wigan Athletic	10	4	2	4	14	11	+3	14	L W L W L
14 Huddersfield Town	12	3	5	4	14	12	+2	14	L L D D D
15 Brighton & Hov...	12	3	5	4	11	12	-1	14	D L D L W
16 Middlesbrough	12	2	6	4	19	21	-2	12	L W D L D
17 Doncaster Rovers	11	3	3	5	11	16	-5	12	L L W D W
18 Millwall	12	3	3	6	14	25	-11	12	D L L W W
19 Charlton Athletic	11	2	4	5	9	14	-5	10	W D L L L
20 Birmingham City	12	3	1	8	13	19	-6	10	L L W L W
21 Bolton Wanderers	11	1	6	5	10	19	-9	9	D W D D L
22 Barnsley	12	2	2	8	14	29	-15	8	W L D L L
23 Sheffield Wedn...	11	0	7	4	11	17	-6	7	D D D L L
24 Yeovil Town	12	1	3	8	6	18	-12	6	D L L D L

Greece Super League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	8	7	1	0	24	2	+22	22	W W W D W
2 PAOK	8	6	1	1	15	6	+9	19	W W D W W
3 Atromitos	8	4	2	2	13	7	+6	14	W D W W L
4 Ergotelis	8	3	5	0	10	5	+5	14	D W W D D
5 Xanthi	8	4	1	3	12	12	+0	13	W W L W L
6 Panthrakikos	8	3	4	1	10	8	+2	13	W D W W D
7 Panathinaikos	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11	L L W W D
8 PAS Giannina	8	3	1	4	8	9	-1	10	L L W L W
9 Panaitolikos	8	2	4	2	6	5	+1	10	D W D D D
10 Asteras Tripolis	8	2	4	2	12	11	+1	10	L D L W D
11 Kalloni	8	3	0	5	7	11	-4	9	L L L L W
12 Panionios	8	2	3	3	8	10	-2	9	W L L D D
13 Aris	8	2	2	4	5	10	-5	8	W W D L D
14 Levadiakos	8	2	2	4	7	17	-10	8	L W L W D
15 Apollon Smirnis	8	2	1	5	10	16	-6	7	D L W L L
16 OFI	8	0	6	2	4	7	-3	6	D D D L D
17 Platania	8	0	5	3	7	13	-6	5	L L D L D
18 Veria	8	1	2	5	6	14	-8	5	L L L L L

SCOTLAND SPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	9	7	2	0	20	8	+12	23	D W W W W
2 Inverness CT	10	6	1	3	16	10	+6	19	L L W L W
3 Motherwell	10	6	1	3	13	12	+1	19	W L W D W
4 Aberdeen	10	5	2	3	12	8	+4	17	W L D W W
5 Hibernian	10	4	3	3	9	9	+0	15	D W L W W
6 Dundee United	10	3	4	3	12	8	+4	13	L W D D W
7 Partick Thistle	10	3	4	3	10	11	-1	13	W L D D L
8 St. Johnstone	10	3	3	4	15	13	+2	12	L W D L L
9 Ross County	10	3	1	6	11	19	-8	10	L W L W L
10 St. Mirren	9	2	2	5	9	16	-7	8	W W D L L
11 Kilmarnock	10	1	3	6	10	16	-6	6	W L L D L
12 Heart of Midlo...	10	2	2	6	7	14	-7	-7	L L D L L

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Twente	10	5	4	1	23	6	+17	19	D W W W D
2 PSV	10	5	3	2	21	9	+12	18	L W L W D
3 PEC Zwolle	10	5	3	2	20	10	+10	18	W D D L L
4 Ajax	10	5	3	2	23	14	+9	18	D W W L W
5 Feyenoord	10	5	2	3	22	17	+5	17	D W W W D
6 Vitesse	10	5	2	3	19	15	+4	17	W L L W W
7 Groningen	10	5	2	3	20	20	+0	17	W W L W L
8 AZ	10	5	1	4	17	17	+0	16	W L W L W
9 Heerenveen	9	4	3	2	23	19	+4	15	L W D W D
10 Roda JC	10	3	4	3	16	20	-4	13	W D D D L
11 Go Ahead Eagles	10	3	4	3	16	23	-7	13	D W L D L
12 NAC Breda	10	3	3	4	15	14	+1	12	L W D W W
13 Utrecht	10	3	3	4	13	20	-7	12	W L D L W
14 Heracles	10	3	2	5	14	18	-4	11	D L W L L
15 Cambuur	10	2	3	5	8	11	-3	9	L L L D W
16 ADO Den Haag	9	2	1	6	11	23	-12	7	D L W D L
17 RKC Waalwijk	10	1	2	7	13	24	-11	5	L L L L L
18 NEC	10	0	5	5	15	29	-14	5	D L L D D

LEAGUE ONE



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Leyton Orient	13	10	2	1	32	11	+21	32	L W W D D
2 Peterborough U...	13	10	2	1	24	8	+16	32	D W W W W
3 Wolverhampton ...	12	9	2	1	23	7	+16	29	W D W W W
4 Preston North End	13	6	5	2	21	15	+6	23	D W L L W
5 Bradford City	13	6	4	3	23	12	+11	22	D L L W W
6 Walsall	13	6	4	3	17	13	+4	22	W W D L D
7 Brentford	13	6	3	4	18	17	+1	21	W W L L W
8 Swindon Town	13	6	2	5	23	16	+7	20	L W W W L
9 Rotherham United	13	5	5	3	19	19	+0	20	D L L W L
10 Milton Keynes Dons	13	5	4	4	21	17	+4	19	L W L L W
11 Crawley Town	12	5	4	3	18	17	+1	19	L W D W D
12 Port Vale	13	5	2	6	17	18	-1	17	W L L D W
13 Carlisle United	12	4	3	5	11	20	-9	15	W L D W W
14 Coventry City	13	7	3	3	30	22	+8	14	W D W W L
15 Shrewsbury Town	13	2	7	4	13	15	-2	13	D L W D L
16 Colchester United	13	2	7	4	12	18	-6	13	D L D L D
17 Gillingham	13	3	3	7	16	22	-6	12	W L L W W
18 Crewe Alexandra	13	3	3	7	11	28	-17	12	L W W L L
19 Oldham Athletic	12	3	2	7	14	18	-4	11	L W D L D
20 Stevenage	13	3	2	8	13	21	-8	11	W L W L L
21 Sheffield United	13	2	3	8	10	20	-10	9	D W L D L
22 Tranmere Rovers	13	2	3	8	11	26	-15	9	D L W L L
23 Notts County	12	2	1	9	14	23	-9	7	L L W L W

France Ligue 1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	10	7	3	0	18	5	+13	24	W W W W D
2 Monaco	10	6	4	0	18	7	+11	22	D W D W D
3 Lille	10	6	2	2	12	4	+8	20	W W D W W
4 Nantes	10	6	1	3	15	8	+7	19	W W W W L
5 Olympique Mars...	10	5	2	3	13	8	+5	17	L L W W D
6 Nice	10	5	2	3	12	10	+2	17	W L W L W
7 Saint-Etienne	10	5	1	4	15	13	+2	16	W D L L L
8 Toulouse	10	4	3	3	9	11	-2	15	W W L W W
9 Guingamp	10	4	2	4	14	11	+3	14	W W L W D
10 Rennes	10	3	4	3	10	11	-1	13	D L L D W
11 Montpellier	10	2	6	2	14	13	+1	12	L W D D D
12 Olympique Lyonnai	10	3	3	4	14	13	+1	12	D L D L W
13 Reims	10	2	6	2	8	8	+0	12	L D D D D
14 Bastia	10	3	3	4	11	15	-4	12	L W D L D
15 Bordeaux	10	2	5	3	12	13	-1	11	D W D D D
16 Evian TG	10	2	3	5	11	19	-8	9	L L D L D
17 Ajaccio	10	1	4	5	6	13	-7	7	L D L W L
18 Lorient	10	2	1	7	9	18	-9	7	L L L L D
19 Sochaux	10	1	3	6	9	20	-11	6	D L W L L
20 Valenciennes	10	1	2	7	7	17	-10	5	D L L L L

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